

Lawzi returns with message for King

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and an accompanying Senate delegation returned home on Sunday after a six-day official visit to Spain upon an invitation by his Spanish counterpart. In an arrival statement, Mr. Lawzi said that he was carrying a message to His Majesty King Hussein from King Juan Carlos of Spain expressing appreciation of the King and praising His Majesty's historic role to formulate a united Arab stand and enhance Arab solidarity. Mr. Lawzi said the Spanish officials whom the Senate delegation met with had expressed their full support of Jordan's policy and its efforts and endeavours to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. They also voiced their appreciation of the positive resolutions adopted by the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Amman summit, calling for an immediate end to the Iran-Iraq war in implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 598 and for holding an international peace conference to establish peace in the Middle East along the lines of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and 338.

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Oman cautions against pressuring Iran over ceasefire

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf Arab states lack the means to pressure Iran into accepting a ceasefire with Iraq, an Omani minister said in a magazine interview. "Pressure tools available to us as Arab states and especially Gulf countries are almost nil and we in the Gulf have common interests with Iran," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Youssef Ibn Alawi told Al Moustakbal magazine. He said Arab Gulf states should not try to pressure Iran because that "would bring dangers on us and we believe that we should not create enmity towards Iran and confrontation."

Syrian soldier found shot dead

BEIRUT (R) — The bullet-riddled body of a Syrian soldier was found on Sunday in west Beirut, police sources said, in a new blow to the Syrian military presence in the Lebanese capital. The soldier had been shot eight times and his rifle was missing, the sources said. His body was discovered by civilians under a bridge in a crowded residential area of the Syrian-controlled sector of the city. Syrian officials refused to comment.

Kuwait frees labour leader on bail

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti criminal court ordered the release on bail of a leftist labour leader arrested two months ago on charges of printing and distributing leaflets without a licence, legal sources said on Sunday. They said Nasser Al Faraj, former head of the Federation of Kuwait Workers, would be tried on Dec. 27. Mr. Faraj was arrested on Oct. 9 for distributing leaflets attacking the presence of U.S. forces in the Gulf and the 1986 suspension of Kuwait's parliament.

Bangladesh president dissolves parliament

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, facing mounting protest against his six years of rule, dissolved parliament on Sunday, the state television announced. It said in a terse late night broadcast General Ershad took the decision in accordance with the constitution. It gave no other details. Telling Jatiya Party sources had said Gen. Ershad might dissolve the 300-member parliament and all fresh elections to defuse opposition to his rule.

Iran releases 8 Lebanese prisoners

ICOSIA (R) — Iran freed eight Lebanese prisoners of war (POWs) captured on the Iran-Iraq warfront and they left for home with a Lebanese Sunni Muslim leader, Iran's official news agency RNA reported on Sunday. The agency said the prisoners were handed over to Sheikh Saad Shan, who had asked Iranian resident Ali Khamenei for their release, at Tehran's international airport.

King and Mubarak review Arab efforts and issues before superpower summit

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein paid a brief visit to Cairo on Sunday and held talks with Egyptian President Mubarak on the latest developments in the Arab and international scenes and topics believed related to Middle East conflicts which would be discussed by the superpower summit that begins today in Washington.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King and President Mubarak reviewed Arab and international developments in the light of contacts pursued by His Majesty in the wake of the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman.

The King also reviewed his

efforts to settle Arab differences during his talks with President Hosni Mubarak, an Egyptian spokesman indicated.

The two leaders, meeting for the second time in under three weeks, held two hours of talks at Cairo's Kubbeh presidential guest palace.



His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak are greeted with flowers at a welcome ceremony at Cairo airport upon the

arrival there on Sunday of His Majesty on a brief visit for talks (right) with the Egyptian president (Petra photos)

But, asked if they discussed the King's efforts to speed up the normalisation of ties between Syria and Iraq, Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Sherif said their frequent talks "always have at the top of the agenda discussion of all issues which concern the achievement of reconciliation and Arab solidarity."

Egypt wanted to forge Arab solidarity in the interests of the Arab World, Mr. Sherif told reporters.

The two leaders also discussed Monday's summit between U.S. President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, whom Mr. Mubarak has urged to step

up efforts to get an international Middle East peace conference convened.

King Hussein, answering a shouted question on their expectations from the Washington summit, said: "We have to wait for the outcome." Reuters reported.

The King and President Mubarak also discussed bilateral relations and cooperation during their talks which were attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and his Egyptian counterpart Atef Sedki. Mr. Rifai and Dr. Sedki briefed the two leaders on the outcome of the meetings of the



Adnan Abu Odeh as well as the Jordanian ambassador to Egypt, Mr. Hussein Hamami. On the Egyptian side, the talks were attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Field Marshal Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala, Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, Mr. Mubarak's political advisor Dr. Osama Al Baz, and the Egyptian ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Ihab Wahbe.

Upon his return home later Sunday, the King was received at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zaid and senior Royal Court and government officials.

In addition to Mr. Rifai, the King's talks with President Mubarak were attended by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Court Minister

based on a perception that their plight is being forgotten, even as those basic rights conferred on all human beings by the U.N. Charter, are being more and more seriously eroded by the occupying military forces, and by Israeli administrative regulations and law.

A lack of faith, based on 40 years of failure, that any of the current external efforts will achieve a political solution. "The likely outcome, according to our informants and our own findings is some form of unowned civilian uprising by the people of the occupied zones, leading to massive loss of life and a forced exodus into other areas. Our local informants warned us that they have never known the area so tense, nor the imminence of an explosion predictable." A senior U.N. official described the atmosphere as one of "tangible hatred," the message said.

In his letter, Lord Winchelsea appealed to Mrs. Thatcher to "ask the Israeli government to take control of the military forces, who often appeared to us to be ill-disciplined and insecure, and more immediately to reduce the day-to-day harassment of the people of the occupied areas."

Lord Winchelsea proposed to the British prime minister that

(Continued on page 3)

Iranians attack two ships, set one ablaze

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Retaliating for Iraqi raids on its own oil shipping, Iran launched unusually devastating gunboat attacks Sunday on two neutral-flag tankers in the Gulf, killing a sailor aboard one and forcing the crew of another to abandon their burning ship.

The latter, a Singapore-flag vessel loaded with highly volatile naphtha, was blazing in the Strait of Hormuz, with flames still visible from kilometres away several hours after the attack.

The raids were typical of Iran's blow-for-blow reprisals against neutral vessels for the Iraqi air strikes against Iran's own oil shipping. Baghdad has claimed five such raids in the past nine days, and the Iranian attacks were the second and third during that time.

Regional shipping sources quoted by AP and Reuters said 20-metre flames were leaping along half the length of the 85,129-tonne Singapore-flag Norman Atlantic, hit as it sailed into the Strait of Hormuz on its way out of the Gulf on Sunday.

Its highly inflammable cargo of Kuwaiti naphtha, a liquid gas, could ignite, they said.

"The size of the fire means that the ship's cargo is burning and it could explode when the heat is high enough," one source told Reuters. "It will not be an easy job for salvage tugs to handle."

Earlier, one crewman was killed and another seriously injured when Iranian Revolutionary Guards fired at least six rocket-propelled grenades at the Danish-flag Estelle Maersk just off Dubai.

In Copenhagen, a spokesman for the A.P. Moeller Company, owners of the Danish-flag Maersk fleet, said the ship had been

challenged by an Iranian warship about two hours earlier and allowed to proceed with a "bon voyage."

Reports of damage to the Estelle Maersk varied. Shipping sources said it was riddled by six rocket-propelled grenades, which caused a small fire, and some accounts described "air bursts" that sprayed shrapnel.

The Moeller spokesman quoted the captain as saying a gunboat of unknown nationality had fired 25 shells into the starboard side and also opened up with machine guns.

AP photographer Greg English, who saw the ship late, said the only visible damage was to a bridge window.

The shipping sources said the sailor who died apparently bled to death from severe shrapnel wounds after a helicopter sent from Dubai crashed on the deck, delaying evacuation of the injured. There were no casualties in the crash, they said.

English said the helicopter's tail rotor apparently hit some steel piping on the deck as it tried to land. "The tail had disappeared from the helicopter and was hanging off the deck, the main rotor was broken, and the right side of the cockpit was smashed," English reported.

Dubai-based Aero Gulf, the charter firm that owned the helicopter, issued a statement saying the pilot, who was not identified, committed "an error of judgement."

The Estelle Maersk, commissioned only three months ago, was on its first trip into the Gulf and had picked up a cargo of gas oil at the Saudi port of Jubail. It was expected to sail again after anchoring overnight at Dubai, the Moeller spokesman said.

Iraq apologises for mistaken bombing of Saudi island

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq on Sunday admitted its air force had struck by mistake a Saudi Arabian island in the Gulf, and officially apologised for the "navigational error."

The kingdom said it considered the matter closed. Regional shipping sources, who first disclosed the bombing, said they thought some Saudi troops had been injured or killed. But Riyadh said there was no loss of life and no damage.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Chief Air Marshal Hamid Shaaban as saying: "Iraqi air force jets were carrying out their duties over the Arab Gulf and as a result of a navigational error, a missile fell from one of the jets on the Saudi island of Arabiya."

The air force commander added: "Although it is a well known fact that such errors are technically possible, we express our profound regret and apology to our brothers in Saudi Arabia, with whom we are linked with, the strongest ties based on the principles of Islam and pan-Arab brotherhood."

Gulf-based shipping sources had said the Iraqi jets apparently mistook Arabiya for Farsi Island, which Iranian Revolutionary Guards use as a launching pad for speedboat attacks on neutral shipping in the Gulf.

The sources said at least one person was injured in the attack on the tiny island, 80 kilometres off the Saudi coast and 32 kilometres south of Farsi.

The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted a Ministry of Defence source as saying the incident "did not amount to anything more than the fall of one shell by mistake on a Saudi island last Friday. No losses in life or facilities resulted."

He added that the "necessary contacts" took place between the two governments, and both regarded the incident as closed.

The Arabiya Island is on the edge of an Iraqi-declared zone where Baghdad had warned that it will attack any ships trading with Iran. On Friday, Iraq reported air raids on what it said were ships serving Iran at 7.10 a.m. (0410 GMT) and 12.10 p.m. (0910 GMT).

Shipping sources speculated that the Iraqi jets were apparently trying to hit a ship when the Saudi island was bombed. The United States has accused Iran of using Farsi Island as a base for boats that harass shipping as well as lay mines in the Gulf and Iraq has bombed it on several occasions.

Liberals warn Thatcher of imminent 'human catastrophe' in occupied lands

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Lord Winchelsea, head of a British Liberal Party delegation which visited Jordan and the occupied West Bank and Gaza, Sunday warned Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe of a dramatic worsening in the situation in the Israeli occupied territories.

"The delegation heard and saw compelling evidence of a rapid slide towards an uncontrollable and violent confrontation between the unarmed inhabitants of the occupied territories and Israeli occupation troops," the Liberal Party warned Mrs. Thatcher in an urgent appeal to be delivered to 10, Downing Street, today on the eve of a meeting between Mrs. Thatcher and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Lord Winchelsea warned the prime minister that "there is a new and immediate danger of a human catastrophe leading to the deaths of thousands of innocent people." An advance copy of the message was made available to the Jordan Times on Sunday.

"The delegation saw overwhelming evidence of the bitterness created by what one leading UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) official

termed 'military occupation in its full meaning. Everyday activities of family life are under tight military supervision and frequent interference', the message said.

Addressing Mrs. Thatcher, the earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham wrote: "I want to convey to you, with the utmost urgency, pleas made to me by ambassadors, senior United Nations staff and other European and American residents in the area, for immediate action to prevent a human catastrophe on a scale that will dwarf Sabra and Shatila."

He said his delegation was warned about the growing dangers of immediate large-scale violence. The delegation summarised the dangers as follows: — A serious deterioration in the relationship between the occupying military forces and the unarmed civilian and refugee population of the area over the past 18 months. "The deterioration in the relationship between the two sides, which I and my delegation were able to confirm for ourselves by visits to the refugee camps, hospitals, schools and universities, and to the Israeli Knesset has led to protest by the civilian population which is being put down by frequently lethal response from the occupation forces," the message said.

— An intensifying despair on the part of the occupied people,

which has also been backed by NATO and the European Community.

The Washington summit is Mr. Gorbachev's first major foreign policy success.

"New thinking demands changes in priorities. The meeting in Washington in essence strengthens its first success by way of a treaty," the Soviet Government newspaper Izvestia said on Saturday.

"New thinking" is the phrase used by Mr. Gorbachev to encapsulate a Soviet foreign policy shift which has so far brought a flowering of initiatives but little real change to geo-politics and the East-West balance of forces.

In Washington, Mr. Reagan says he hopes Mr. Gorbachev will get a sense of American freedom during the Dec. 7-10 summit, but tight security and a busy schedule assure the Soviet leader will see little of it.

"It's one of my deepest hopes that during this, his first visit to America, Mr. Gorbachev will have an opportunity to sense something of the dignity and power of human liberty," Mr. Reagan said in his weekly radio speech on Saturday.

Today's Soviet-British summit to focus on arms control beyond INF

LONDON (Agencies) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will hold a short dress rehearsal for the Washington summit on Monday, looking beyond the superpowers' medium-range missile treaty to the next step in arms control.

Mr. Gorbachev's decision to stop in Britain on his way to Washington underlined Mrs. Thatcher's unique position as both America's closest ally and the European leader he knows and trusts best.

Thatcher aides disclosed that she intends to make the most of her intermediary role by putting forward a new proposal on "Star Wars," space-based anti-missile defences, designed to lead to a strategic weapons agreement.

Mr. Gorbachev will fly into Royal Air Force base Brize Norton, about 125 kilometres west of London, late on Monday morning, for what Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov described as both a refuelling stop and an opportunity for a fuelling of ideas.

During two hours of talks, including a lunch of Scottish salmon

in the officers' mess, Mrs. Thatcher will put to him her ideas on the issues he will discuss at greater length during four meetings with Mr. Reagan from Tuesday to Thursday.

While they confer, his wife Raisa, whose elegance and poise has brought her widespread attention, will visit a nearby school and see five and seven-year-olds perform a traditional nativity play about Christ's birth in a stable.

The Soviet and British leaders will follow an agenda covering a wide range of international issues and concerns, including human rights, the Gulf war, arms control and Afghanistan.

But with the signing in the White House on Tuesday of an historic intermediate range weapons (INF) treaty to rid Europe of more than 1,000 shorter- and medium-range missiles, British officials said the thrust will be on further arms control steps.

Mrs. Thatcher responded last week to a request from Mr. Reagan to his allies for suggestions for his talks with Mr. Gorbachev with a letter expressing strong support for the INF treaty,

Settler stabbed to death in Gaza

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — An unknown assailant, believed to be a Palestinian, fatally stabbed an Israeli settler on Sunday in the occupied Gaza Strip, the military and a hospital spokesman said.

Soldiers responded by swiftly clamping a curfew at the attack site, Palestine Square, the downtown hub of Gaza City, and cordoning off the area with barbed wire, the military and witnesses said.

An army spokesman said the attack appeared to be the work of a Palestinian.

The victim was rushed to nearby Al Akhli hospital where he was pronounced dead shortly after the attack, added the spokesman who declined to elaborate.

The Palestine Press Service identified the victim as a Jewish settler and that the attack occurred at 14:15 (12:15 GMT) outside a branch of the Israeli Bank Hapoalim in Gaza, a city of about 100,000 Palestinians.

It was the second attack on Israelis in the occupied territories in two days, including an attempted roadside bombing Saturday of an automobile driven by right-wing Rabbi and legislator, Eliezer Waldman.

After the stabbing, witnesses said soldiers forced dozens of shops in Gaza shut at gunpoint and detained at least 20 Palestinian men for questioning, AP reported.

In August, Israel's military police commander in Gaza was shot dead and troops placed the area under curfew for three days.

Gaza City is the main city of the crowded Gaza Strip which borders on Egypt and is home to about 600,000 Palestinian refugees and several thousand Jewish settlers. It is a frequent site of Israeli-Arab violence.

Tensions have heightened in the area since a 17-year-old Palestinian school girl was shot dead during an anti-Israeli protest last month near the Deir Al Balah refugee camp in Gaza.

Police on Friday detained four Israeli settlers suspected of involvement in the shooting.

Israeli news reports said at least one of the men was suspected of firing the fatal shot in retaliation for Palestinian stonings.

In a related incident, Palestinians detonated a roadside bomb Saturday shattering the windshield of legislator Waldman's car as he passed the village of Hailoul in the occupied West Bank.

Waldman, of the ultra-right-wing Tzohar Party, is among the founders of the West Bank settlement, Kiryat Arba.

In Damascus, two Palestinian groups separately claimed responsibility for the bomb attack on Waldman.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by George Habash, said on Sunday its men blew up Waldman's car in retaliation for his "aggressive provocations against Palestinian masses in the occupied territories."

The pro-Syrian dissident Fateh faction, led by Abu Mousa, said one of its men attacked the car with hand grenades.

Both groups said the car was damaged and its occupants wounded.

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U.S. reportedly dissuades Israel against strikes on Syrian, Palestinian targets

KUWAIT (AP) — The U.S. administration has dissuaded Israel three times over the past few days from carrying out a military strike against Syrian and Palestinian targets inside Syrian territory, a Kuwaiti newspaper reported Sunday.

In a Washington dispatch, the daily Al Rai Al Aam, quoted sources at the Middle East section of the State Department as saying that U.S. President Ronald Reagan's administration had "strongly rejected... requests" by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin to get the go-ahead signal to launch aerial strikes against Syria.

The administration made its decision "on the grounds that such Israeli attacks would demolish peace efforts in the Middle East and even sabotage the Reagan-Gorbachev summit," said the paper quoting the sources. It did not identify the sources further.

Mr. Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev are scheduled to begin their summit talks in Washington on Monday.

There have been widespread reports that Israel would launch a strike in retaliation for the recent hang-glider attack by Palestinian commandos.

Al Rai Al Aam said the Israeli counterstrike is prepared and has the codename "the arrow." It would involve an air blitz on Syria's Soviet surface-to-air missile batteries near Damascus and the Lebanese border and on its surface-to-surface missiles as well as the bases in Syria and in east

Lebanon's Bekaa Valley of the Palestinian group that claimed responsibility.

Al Rai Al Aam's sources added that Washington endorsed Israeli strikes against Palestinian targets inside Lebanon but Israel considered such strikes "insufficient."

4 took part in raid

Meanwhile the Palestinian who led the hang glider attack against Israel last month was quoted as telling a British Sunday newspaper in Damascus that the operation proved guerrillas can successfully attack Israeli targets without detection.

"Unless they build a wall in the sky, or surround their territory with nets, they can never be sure of safety," the 23-year-old Palestinian who calls himself Abu Thayer was quoted as telling the Observer.

Six Israeli soldiers were killed and seven wounded when Palestinian commandos infiltrated northern Israel on motorised hang gliders on Nov. 25 and carried out the bloodiest attack inside Israel in nearly a decade.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), a Syrian-based splinter group of the Palestine Liberation Organisation headed by Ahmad Jibril, issued a

communiqué in Damascus taking responsibility for the attack.

"The beauty of the hang-glider is that it cannot be detected by radar—it is just like an innocent sparrow," Abu Thayer was quoted as telling Observer correspondent Shyam Bhatia in an interview in the Damascus office of the PFLP-GC.

He insisted that four men took part in the mission, not three as Israel reported. One man was killed in the attack on the Ghor military camp and a second was shot as he was leaving Israeli airspace and died from his wounds the following morning, just across the border in Lebanon, he was quoted as saying.

Abu Thayer was quoted as saying he and his companions flew at a height of 3,000 feet (900 metres), flying over "five or six" Israeli radars without being detected. When they landed on a field of dry thorns, he was quoted as saying, there was no sign of military activity even though Israel claims an alert had been sounded.

"Once we landed safely, our strategy was to form two groups, one to penetrate the camp and the other for back-up," Abu Thayer was quoted as saying.

Two members of the group, known under the names of Abu Rami and Abu Hassan, led the attack while the other two, Abu Thayer and Abu Ali, provided covering fire. All were armed with Kalashnikov rifles and grenades, "enough to kill a thousand soldiers," Abu Thayer was quoted as saying.

Paris paid \$5m for hostages, paper says

LONDON (R) — France paid a \$5 million ransom for two French hostages released from Lebanon last month, Britain's Observer newspaper said on Sunday.

It said Paris had also agreed to full repayment of a \$1.3 billion loan made by the former Shah of Iran, a clampdown on Iranian opposition activities in France and a gradual withdrawal of French forces from the Gulf to obtain the release of three other French hostages still in Lebanon.

The claims, attributed to sources in Paris and the Middle East, contrast with repeated assurances by French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac that France did not pay for the release of journalists Roger Auque and Jean-Louis Normandin on Nov. 27.

In Paris, a French Foreign Ministry spokeswoman rejected the Observer report, saying Mr. Chirac had already denied the allegations.

"He said clearly there had been no ransom," she said. "We categorically deny these reports."

Speculation that France had struck a deal to free the hostages was fuelled two days after their release when Paris sent home an Iranian translator suspected of involvement in bombing campaigns in the French capital. He was exchanged for France's consul general in Tehran.

The Observer said \$2 million of the ransom money was paid directly to the hostages' captors and three million was promised to the families of Iranian Revolutionary Guards killed in a French retaliatory attack on the Lebanese town of Baalbek four years ago.

Iran seeks fighters, spares on world arms market

By John Fullerton
Reuter

NICOSIA — Iran is urgently seeking fighter aircraft and missiles on the world arms market as it mobilises for a new offensive in its seven-year war against Iraq, military analysts said.

They told Reuters they believed Tehran desperately needed combat aircraft and spares to keep the planes flying.

"I suspect they would like to put together an effective air defence capability," said Don Kerr of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

The United Arab Emirates daily Al Itihad said on Saturday that Iran had acquired an unspecified number of Soviet-built warplanes and 100 Chinese anti-ship missiles.

Mr. Kerr and other military experts think Iran's shopping list must include planes, missiles and radar to challenge Iraq's dominance in the air and shield Tehran's troops and warships.

The Iranian search for weapons has been highlighted by reports of black-market deals involving Israel and France. Israel is said to have sold millions of dollars worth of explosives and arms to Tehran through a Swedish middleman between 1984 and 1986.

In Paris, Interior Minister Charles Pasqua has dismissed

accusations in Britain and the United States that France had bought the freedom of two of its hostages in Lebanon.

He said France had neither paid ransom nor delivered any arms to Iran. The two Frenchmen were freed on Nov. 27.

The United States sold arms to Iran last year, securing the release of two Americans kidnapped in Lebanon in a scandal which severely shook Ronald Reagan's presidency.

In an interview published in Kuwait's Al Qabas newspaper on Saturday, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy predicted that the United Nations would impose an arms embargo on Iran to force it to accept a ceasefire.

Defence analysts said Iran takes a long-term view of its war machine and is building up its own arms industries.

It could make much of its own ammunition and manufacture most basic infantry weapons. Tehran says it has begun work on simple rocketry and missile guidance systems.

But some advanced weapons it needed quickly could only be bought abroad, the experts said.

The air force has proved Iran's Achilles heel. While it has men and motivation, Tehran has found it increasingly difficult to keep its warplanes in the air.

In air power, Iran has two options: To develop air defences

against Iraqi planes or to beef up close air cover for its troops and warships.

For air support, it relies heavily on dwindling numbers of the elderly F-5s and F-4s, the analysts said.

"They don't have too many of either. I suspect they've had to cannibalise both fleets," Mr. Kerr said.

Cannibalising meant stripping parts from one or more aircraft to keep sister planes flying. "Once you start, the number of planes goes down and down," Mr. Kerr said.

For air defence, Iran would want spares and engines for its 10 F-14s Tomcat fighters, as well as Phoenix air-to-air missiles to arm them. Whether it could acquire them is another matter.

"The only user of the Tomcat is the U.S. Navy and Iranians virtually would have to burglar an American base to get hold of what they want for the aircraft," Mr. Kerr said.

"Spares have been a problem throughout the war. There is the story that Israel had sold Iran second-hand aircraft tyres."

Mr. Kerr said aircraft engines would be a priority. They needed to be replaced every 1,000 to 2,000 flying hours. Without replacement engines, planes would be grounded.

Nick Cook, aviation editor of Jane's Defence Weekly, said he believed Iran was desperate for

aircraft spare parts.

There were reports that Iran took delivery of six British-built air defence radars last year, that a contract for the Plessey Watchman Surveillance Radar had been signed and that 50 Chinese J-7s, a derivative of the MiG-21, had been ordered. All pointed to attempts to upgrade air defences.

Mr. Cook said parts for the Phantom F-4 were not hard to find in the Middle East. But the Tomcat would pose a major problem, and its radar and weapons system would be hard to track down.

Analysts said Iran's admirals would need to focus on fast attack craft (FACs) if they wanted to prepare the navy to face the foreign warships now assembled in the Gulf.

James McCoy, IISS naval information officer, said Iran was likely to concentrate on its seven or eight serviceable French-built Combattante II FACs and seek the Harpoon anti-ship missiles the boats were designed to carry.

"It has to be the priority," he said.

Joseph Alpher, of the Jaffee Institute for Strategic Studies in Tel. Aviv, said Iran did shun deals as well as buying arms from respectable people.

"What they desperately need is combat aircraft and spare parts for tanks and helicopters," he said.

Iranian rebels establish hospital in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Iran's main opposition Mujahadeen Khalq has established a modern hospital in Iraq to treat its fighters injured in operations against Iran.

Reporters met dozens of the group's National Liberation Army (NLA) fighters on a guided tour of the hospital, staffed by exiled Iranian doctors and nurses, near the capital Baghdad.

"The hospital, established in June this year, has treated hundreds of fighters injured in diffe-

rent operations against (Iran's spiritual leader) Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's forces," a woman doctor said.

"We treat Iranian army prisoners of war, who our fighters capture during attacks on enemy bases, the same way we treat our own injured fighters," she added.

Mujahadeen Khalq has reported stepping up operations against Iran's forces on both sides of its border in recent months. A spokesman for the group

told Reuters on Sunday that the NLA had killed or wounded 8,450 Iranian troops and taken 865 prisoner in 99 attacks on government bases since January.

The last reported attack was on Friday when Mujahadeen Khalq said the NLA attacked bases in Iran's Khuzestan province, killing 80 troops, wounding 143 and capturing 29.

Independent confirmation of NLA operations is not usually possible.

EC urges U.N. to enforce Gulf arms embargo

COPENHAGEN (R) — European Community leaders called on the United Nations on Saturday to take immediate action to force Iran and Iraq to a ceasefire in the Gulf war.

Diplomats said the call, in a statement on the Middle East issued at the end of the Copenhagen summit, referred to the idea of an arms embargo against whichever country resisted the truce.

Expressing their profound concern over the continuation of the war and their continued support for a U.N. Security Council resolution demanding a ceasefire, the 12 EC member states said:

"Continued non-compliance with this mandatory resolution is not acceptable to the world community and the appropriate action should now be taken to

enforce its implementation by means of a follow-up resolution."

Diplomats said the reference to the need for action now was inserted at the insistence of Britain, which is one of the strongest supporters of an arms embargo to force Iran to accept the ceasefire.

On the Arab-Israeli conflict, the EC leaders repeated their

backing for an international peace conference under U.N. auspices and voiced concern about human rights and living conditions in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The leaders also issued a joint plea Saturday for a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan by the end of next year.

Mauritania executes 3

NOUAKCHOTT (R) — Three military officers were executed on Sunday morning in Mauritania for plotting to overthrow the government of President Maouya Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya, judicial sources said.

The three black officers were accused of conspiring against the Arab-dominated government of this north-west African nation.

The trio — Lieutenant Ba Seydi, commander of Nouak-

chott's naval base, Lieutenant Sarr Amadou and Lieutenant Sy Saidou, both members of the army staff — died before a firing squad in the capital Nouakchott, the sources said.

They were sentenced to death on Thursday by a state security court. Eighteen other defendants were sentenced to hard labour for life, for their part in a planned coup for the night of Oct. 22.

Iran said to have offered deal to free Waite

LONDON (AP) — The Ayatollah Khomeini offered to arrange the release of Church of England envoy Terry Waite from captivity in Lebanon in return for \$2.75 million (\$4.94 million) and Britain's promise to resume arms sales to Iran, the Sunday Express reported.

The offer was made to unnamed French officials to be relayed to the British government, the newspaper said in a report attributed to unnamed senior Ira-

qi intelligence sources in Paris. However, it said "the deal fell flat because of Britain's absolute refusal... to give in to terrorist blackmail. It is not even certain the French relayed the offer to London."

A spokesman for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Saturday night that the government was "not aware of any offer or proposal whatever."

Mr. Waite, personal representative of the Archbishop of

Canterbury, spiritual leader of the world's Anglicans, disappeared in Beirut on Jan. 20. No group has claimed responsibility for kidnapping him.

A spokesman for Archbishop Robert Runcie said the church was not aware of any offer for Mr. Waite's release.

"Terry's express wish was that no deals should be done on his behalf," said the spokesman, speaking anonymously in keeping with British custom.

Peres, Eban to testify at Vanunu trial

TEL AVIV (AP) — Judges ruled Sunday that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and lawmaker Abba Eban must testify at the trial of Mordechai Vanunu, a former nuclear technician accused of spying Israel's nuclear secrets, the defence said.

In a closed-door session, a three-judge panel ruled by majority vote to accept a defence re-

quest to subpoena the two officials, said Avigdor Feldman, Vanunu's attorney.

"This ruling means Peres and Eban must testify," Feldman told the Associated Press following Sunday's court session.

Feldman said he could not elaborate on what issues Peres and Eban would testify. Asked if they would be questioned on

Israel's nuclear capability, he answered: "probably."

Vanunu, 33, is charged with treason and espionage for telling the Sunday Times of London that Israel manufactures nuclear weapons and for providing detailed information based on his 10 years at the Dimona nuclear facility in Israel's Negev desert.

North Yemen, Libya boost cooperation

BEIRUT (R) — North Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani has ended four days of talks in Libya with an agreement to boost cooperation.

The official Libyan News Agency JANA, monitored in Beirut, said a communiqué was issued in Tripoli and Sanaa on Sunday on meetings of the "Higher Arab Libyan-Yemeni Committee."

The committee, comprising 17 members of the North Yemeni cabinet and Libya's General People's Committee, held its second round of talks in Tripoli ending on Saturday, when Mr. Abdul Ghani left the Libyan capital. The first round was held in Sanaa in April 1985.

Sudanese forces kill 200 rebels

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Sudanese army troops killed some 200 southern rebels in hand-to-hand fighting with knives and daggers at a location near a rebel-occupied town, a daily newspaper reported Sunday.

Al Siyassa said 144 troops engaged the rebels Friday in a battle one kilometre away from Kurmuk, which is occupied by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). It said they retook the area of the battle but not the town.

The paper made no mention of losses to government troops.

On Nov. 12, the SPLA overran Kurmuk, 592 kilometres east of the capital and a strategic spot because of its proximity to the Er Roseires Dam, Sudan's main electricity supplier 144 kilometres away.

The SPLA claimed in a radio report earlier this week that it repulsed a government attack on Kurmuk and destroyed two brigades. It said it had begun a push toward Damazin.

Another Khartoum daily said the government imposed an indefinite nighttime curfew on the towns of Er Roseires and neighbouring Damazin, banning traffic between 5 p.m. and 6 a.m. as of Saturday.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 7311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:50 Programme review
15:55 Cartoons and children programmes
16:45 Journey to Art
17:10 Jack Halborn
17:40 Physics in Action
18:10 Arabic series
19:00 Message from Oman
19:10 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
19:40 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:30 Local programme
21:30 Arabic Series
22:00 News Summary in Arabic
23:00 Film of the Week
23:10 Close down

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 History of Nature
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine (French)
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Kate and Allie
21:00 Communications
21:10 Falcon Crest
22:00 News in English
22:20 A Killing on the Exchange (new series)

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM

and partly on 95.0 KHz. SW

Tel. 7311-19

07:00 Light Music

07:30 Newsdesk

08:00 Morning Show

08:30 News Summary

10:05 Just a Minute

11:00 Yes Minister

12:00 News Summary

13:00 Pop Session

14:05 Pop Session Contd.

14:40 News Bulletin

14:50 Piano Magic

15:00 Concert Hour

16:00 News Summary

16:05 Instrumentals

16:30 Old Favorites

17:00 Young Sound

17:30 Pop Session

18:00 News Summary

18:05 Sports Roundup

18:10 Music

19:00 News Desk

19:30 Date with a Star

20:00 Evening Show

21:00 News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* "Documenta" — art exhibition at the Goethe Institute (until Dec. 23)

* An art exhibition by Bulgarian artist Stoyan Stoyanov at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 7)

* An exhibition of Creative Photography by Akram Daraqjan (until Dec. 10)

* Spanish film at 10:30 a.m. at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

FEATURE FILM

* "White Christmas" at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6010267

American Centre 644731

British Cultural Centre 6301478

French Cultural Centre 637009

Goethe Institute 642003

Soviet Cultural Centre 634203

Spanish Cultural Centre 630489

Turkish Cultural Centre 639777

Hava Arts Centre 605195

Hussein Youth City 6071816

Y.W.C.A. 641793

Y.M.W.A. 664251

Amman Municipal Library 637111

Univ. of Jordan Library 943555

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Hava Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabbal Al Qal'a (Clad Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Phoenician Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabbal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman. Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Luvweid. Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Hussein. Tel. 601757.

Terrazas Church (Roman Catholic). Jabbal Luvweid. Mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622306.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. Tel. 623411.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabbal Amman. Tel. 625383, chaplain's residence tel. 601259.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 677534.

Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295.

Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Interdenominational: ecumenical English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 822605, Rev. Veli.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) Tel. 815817, 827264.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

09:15 Aqaba (RJ)

09:20 Larnaca (RJ)

09:30 Cairo (RJ)

09:30 Damascus (RJ)

09:30 Kuwait (RJ)

09:30 Doha (RJ)

Queen Mother wishes Favez speedy recovery

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Zein, the Queen Mother, has made telephone enquiries regarding the health of Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Favez, who is now recuperating at a hospital in Houston, Texas after undergoing surgery. The Queen Mother wished Mr. Favez a speedy recovery and a safe return. On Saturday, Mr. Favez was reported in very good condition after his operation, which took place last Wednesday. He is expected to be

discharged from the hospital within a week.

On Friday, His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the King's personal representative, both telephoned Mr. Favez, congratulating him on the success of his operation and wishing him speedy recovery.

Mr. Favez also received similar telephone messages from Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, other ministers and Parliament deputies.

Haj Hassan leaves for Tunis

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan left for Tunis on Sunday, heading a delegation which will take part in the eighth meeting of the Council of Arab Social Affairs Ministers opening on Tuesday.

In a statement prior to his departure, the minister said that the council will discuss a report on measures for supporting the Arab Social Work Fund and a pan-Arab strategy on social work for 1988, as well as social and demographic changes in Arab countries and the role of Arab women in labour and child development.

The report calls for increased cooperation among Arab states in social and labour activities and the promotion of social development projects in individual Arab countries.

During his stay in Tunis, Mr. Haj Hassan will hold separate talks with Arab ministers attending the council meeting on Jordan's cooperation with their respective countries in labour and social affairs. In particular, he will consult with ministers from Gulf countries, where 40 per cent of Jordanians working abroad are employed.

CAEU meeting aims to promote inter-Arab trade

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) will hold its 48th meeting at the ministerial level on Wednesday to discuss a proposed integrated economic programme aimed at promoting inter-Arab trade.

Arab ministers of economy, trade and finance will take part in the two-day meeting, which will discuss ways to promote trade, particularly among members of the Arab Common Market.

which was set up by the CAEU, according to a council spokesperson here.

The spokesperson said the ministers will review an annual report by the CAEU secretary general, focusing on general economic conditions in the Arab World.

A new budget for the CAEU is also on the agenda for discussion, as is the election of a new secretary general for the council.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Food security talks continue

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar on food security in Muslim countries continued its meetings here on Sunday with the participants discussing three working papers, from Egypt and Indonesia, dealing with incentives for farmers, means for increasing food production and analysis of food resources in the Muslim World. The three-day meeting opened with a speech from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, in which he urged developing nations to employ modern technology for more profitable exploitation of soil, in order to ensure bumper crops and, ultimately, food security.

Jordan, Malaysia review cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Malaysian Minister of Agriculture Al Sannoussi Bin Jneid on Sunday conferred with the under secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Salem Al Lawzi, for talks on scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Malaysia in the field of agriculture. Dr. Lawzi briefed Mr. Bin Jneid on the ministry's policies designed to develop agricultural production and revitalise exports of local produce. Dr. Lawzi also accompanied his guest on a tour of the Jordan Valley Agricultural Department, where he was briefed on agricultural development in the valley region.

Arab airlines to discuss joint venture

AMMAN (J.T.) — A meeting is to open today in Kuwait to discuss the prospect of setting up a finance company that could purchase or lease aircraft for Arab airlines, according to Mr. Adli Dajani, secretary-general of the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO). He said that the meeting, to be attended by heads of 10 Arab airlines including Jordan's national air carrier, will focus attention on training staff to take charge of the project, conduct deals with foreign manufacturing companies and supervise the establishment of airports to be run jointly by Arab airlines.

New bookshop to open today

AMMAN (J.T.) — A new branch for the Al Istiklal Bookshop will be opened today in Sweifiyah by a ceremony to be held under the patronage of Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher. The ceremony will be held at 4:00 p.m. The new branch is located at the Sweifiyah Shopping Centre at the Sixth Circle.

Murphy: Gulf war high on superpower agenda

(Continued from page 1)

Up the war and implement the solution demanding a ceasefire in the seven-year Iran-Iraq war. Mr. Murphy predicted in an interview with Kuwait's Al Qabas newspaper published on Saturday at the United Nations would impose an arms embargo on Iran make it accept a ceasefire. "We gave (Iran) four and a half months and they are now preparing a new offensive. Their goal is to continue the war," he told Al Qabas.

Moscow has said U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar needed time to persuade Iran to accept a ceasefire. In Washington, a U.S. official accused Tehran on Saturday of ducking and dodging U.N. efforts to end the war and said the Soviet Union appears to be protecting Iran from stringent international sanctions.

"We have the impression the Soviets are shielding the Iranians from any effective U.N. diplomacy," a senior White House official said Saturday while briefing reporters on the agenda of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit. "If the Iranians continue their provocations against us, and the Soviets seem to be protecting them, then this is bound to become an issue in our relationship with the Soviets," the official added, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He also noted that weapons from the Eastern bloc are being supplied to Iran, "and if any of these weapons happen to hit an American ship or Americans, this is bound to be an issue."

Soviet support for Iran gives Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Iran's revolutionary leader, the impression that if he clashes with

Government to present 1988 draft budget to Lower House of Parliament

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government will present Jordan's JD 1.075 billion draft budget for 1988 to the Lower House of Parliament today.

The draft budget, to be unveiled to the House in a speech given by Finance Minister Hanna Odeh, will be referred by the deputies to the chamber's Financial Committee for further evaluation.

Dr. Odeh's speech is also expected to outline the government's major policy objectives inherent in the allocations for the various national sectors.

Observers expect Dr. Odeh's speech to reiterate the government's stand on defence spending and controlling public expenditures, which they said remained unchanged.

The 1988 draft budget exceeds by 5.6 per cent this year's JD 1.019 billion budget.

The draft budget envisages tot-

al incoming revenues (local revenues and external loans) at JD 1.009 billion — a three per cent increase over last year's JD 979.1 million.

A total of JD 862.247 million is expected to be derived from local revenues, such as services, customs and income tax, and the remainder of JD 146.300 million will come from external loans covering economic and technical aid programmes.

The projected deficit in the 1988 budget stands at JD 66.900 million and is expected to be covered through loans, savings on public expenditures and improved revenues derived from more efficient tax collection. The 1987 deficit stood at JD 39.6 million.

The House, in its regular meeting, will discuss a number of laws, including a JD 61.5 million supplement to the 1987 budget and

an amendment to the 1987 law on additional fees to be collected by Jordan's four universities.

The meeting, to be chaired by Deputy Speaker of the Lower House Ismail Hijazi, is also expected to ratify two loan agreements entered between the government of Jordan and the Saudi Fund for Development and the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Socio-Economic Development, respectively.

The first loan will be used to finance part of the Faculty of Sciences at the Jordan University of Science and Technology, while the latter will fund the second phase of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station.

The chamber will also discuss amendments to the 1987 law on military servicemen and another amendment to the 1987 law on the Jordan Economic and Social Organisation for Retired Servicemen.

Agriculture ministry anticipates bumper harvest due to rainfall

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture on Sunday

advised farmers to sow cereals in the wake of the rain that fell in nearly all parts of the Kingdom.

The rains which fell over the past two days are considered a harbinger for a bumper harvest next year because they came at the proper time of the year, when they are most needed for growing cereals, according to Ali Masadeh, head of the Field Crops Department at the Ministry of

Agriculture.

He said that farmers are advised to plant all kinds of seeds, as soon as the soil is dry enough to allow for sowing.

Mr. Masadeh said those farmers who sowed their seeds in October should also be expecting good harvests, depending upon rainfall between now and the end of next month.

The Ministry of Agriculture has distributed 80,000 tonnes of improved wheat and barley seeds

to farmers, in an effort to improve cereal production, Mr. Masadeh noted.

Commenting on the weather, Mr. Ali Abanda, director of the Department of Meteorology, said that he was expecting more rain and atmospheric depressions from now until the end of the month. He said between 25 and 35 millimetres of rain fell in the north; between 15 and 40 mm. in the central regions; and between 55 and 60 mm. in the south.

Cabinet forms delegations to conferences

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet

held a meeting on Sunday under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali, during which it approved Jordan's participation in the ninth

ordinary conference of the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO), which is due to open

in Tunis on Dec. 25.

The Cabinet formed Jordan's delegation to this conference, which will be headed by Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi.

The Cabinet also said that Jordan will be participating in the annual board meeting of the Arab Broadcasting Union (ABU) due to open in Tunis on Dec. 28

and formed Jordan's delegation to that meeting, as well.

The delegation will be headed by Mr. Nasouh Al Majali, director-general of the Radio and Television Corporation.

The Cabinet also announced that Jordan will take part in a meeting of supervisors of the affairs of the Palestinian people due to open in Tunis on Jan. 8. Jordan's delegation to that meeting will be led by Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, under secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs.

The Cabinet said that Jordan will take part in the third meeting of broadcasting institutions in the Non-Aligned Movement member states due to open in Cyprus on Dec. 10. Jordan will be represented at the meeting by the director of Radio Jordan, Mr. Issam Arada.

CORRECTION

In an article on the seminar on food security in the Muslim World which appeared in yesterday's issue of the Jordan Times, it was said that the Islamic Academy of Sciences is headed by Pakistani President Zia Ul Haq. The academy is co-chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and President Zia.

Government to step up road improvement through use of modern technology

AMMAN (Petra) — The government spends nearly JD 50 million annually on building or maintaining roads, with nearly 15 per cent of this sum going towards maintenance, according to Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Hawamdeh.

The minister said that Jordan has an integrated network of mainroads and sideroads, extending a total length of 8,200 kilometres, which require constant care and safety checks, in order to reduce the risk of accidents.

Mr. Hawamdeh was speaking at the opening of a seminar on the technology of road maintenance which is being held here under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The seminar is organised by the Ministry of Public Works, in cooperation with Greater Amman Municipality, the Jordanian Roads Society, the Jordanian Engineers Association and the Jordanian Contractors Association.

Referring to the public works projects currently under way, Mr. Hawamdeh said that the ministry has begun building ring roads around the main cities of the country to steer the passage of heavy traffic and heavy vehicles away from the cities, in any effort

to prevent accidents and air and noise pollution.

The Ministry of Public Works has improved the condition of roads by making surfaces thicker and, thereby, capable of bearing weight. But extra weight is still causing damage to the roads, making them more dangerous, Mr. Hawamdeh noted.

The minister said that this seminar will tackle ways to protect roads and the people who use them by employing modern technology — a field in which the Ministry of Public Works takes great interest.

Said Bino, a former public works minister and current chairman of the Jordanian Roads Society, addressed the opening session, outlining the society's endeavours to improve the condition of roads by helping to promote systems for design and construction and by organising seminars and research projects.

"The damage that has been inflicted on the roads indicates the poor quality of the materials

used in their construction, the lack of proper design and the absence of canals for rainwater drainage," Mr. Bino said.

Dr. Rawhi Al Sharif of the University of Jordan also spoke at the seminar's opening and stressed that public awareness campaigns should be organised to help people understand the need for controlling the volume of weight that the roads can bear, as well as the need for constant maintenance of roads to help reduce accidents.

The 100 participants in the three-day seminar, who come from Jordan, the United States, West Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom, will discuss regulations governing the use of modern and advanced technology in road maintenance, water drainage systems for roads, pavement repair, axial weights on roads and the usefulness of laboratories in controlling the quality of materials used in building roads.

Among those present at the opening session were Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jabri and Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh.

PSD director returns after talks in Rome, Paris and Tunis

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Public Security Department (PSD) Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali returned here on Sunday at the end of visits to Italy, France and Tunisia.

In a statement upon his return, Lt.-Gen. Majali said that he had met with the Italian minister of interior, the director of public security and other officials and concluded with them an agreement on exchanging expertise in security affairs. He said that he toured a number of security centres in Italy and acquainted himself with their systems.

In Paris, Lt.-Gen. Majali took part in the general assembly meetings of the International Police (INTERPOL). He said that the Arab delegates to the annual meeting coordinated their stands on the various subjects discussed.

Later, the PSD director travelled to Tunis and took part in the meeting of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers which ended there on Sunday.

Free medical services to be provided to needy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) and the Ministry of Health are making arrangements for providing free medical treatment to needy and poor people at clinics owned and operated by the private sector, according to JMA President Dr. Mamdouh Al Abbadi.

He told a press conference here on Sunday that clinics owned by charitable societies in the country will provide free services once an agreement with the Health Ministry has been concluded.

Dr. Abbadi voiced appreciation to Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and the Jordanian government for continuing to pay allowances to doctors employed by the Health Ministry, helping them to improve their standard of living.

At the press conference held at the Professional Association Complex, Dr. Abbadi announced that the JMA board has endorsed the Medical Code, which will be published in the Official Gazette, and that the board also approved bylaws designing doctors' annual leaves and night shifts.

Seminar on informatics in Arab World opens today

AMMAN (Petra) — A regional seminar on national strategies for informatics will be opened here today by Minister of Planning Dr. Taher Kanaan.

The seminar, organised by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), will discuss working papers dealing with informatics in the Arab World, according to Dr. Youssef Nuseir, chairman of a

committee preparing for the conference.

He said that Jordan's delegation to the three-day seminar will submit a working paper containing a proposal for a national informatics strategy.

Representatives from the following countries will take part in the seminar: Iraq, Syria, Tunisia, Kuwait, North Yemen, Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan, Bahrain, Qatar, Libya, in addition to Jordan.

JORDAN'S PRIVATE SECTOR COMMODITY IMPORT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT/NOTICE

\$24,000,000 remains available on a first-come - first-serve basis.

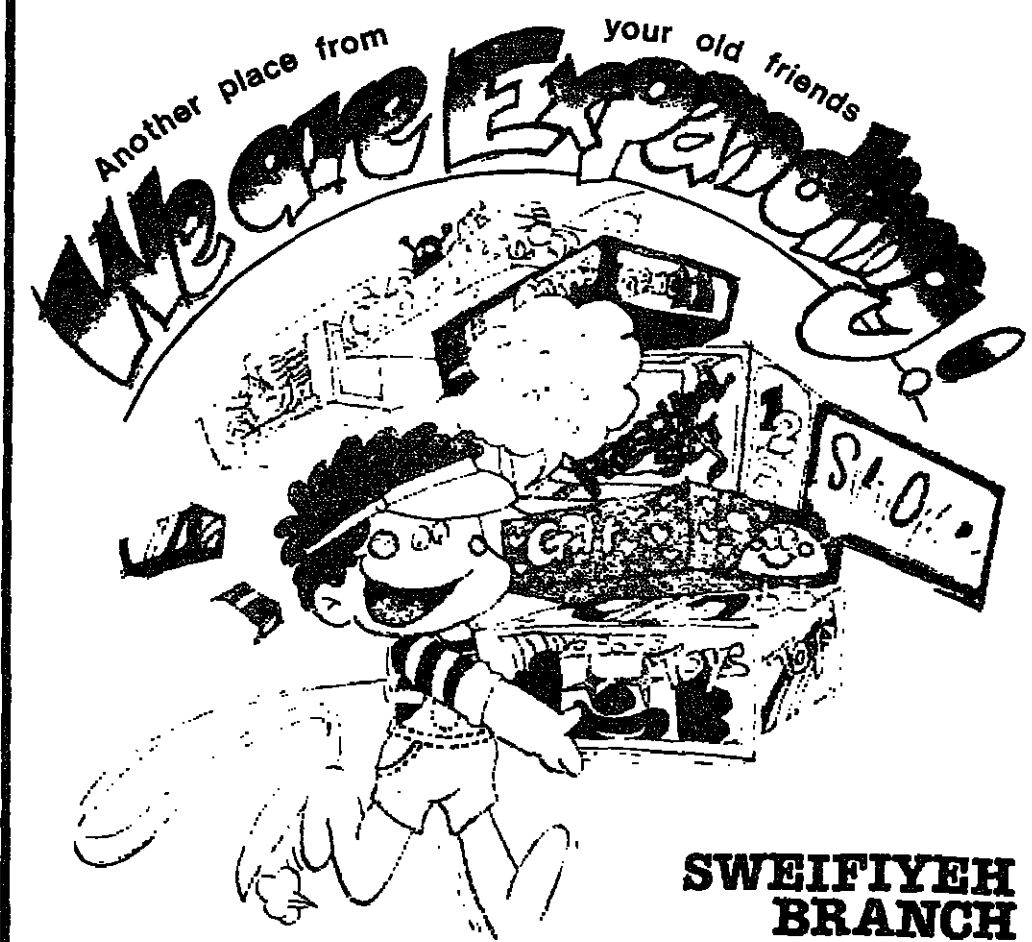
Attention: Private Sector Importers and Banking Institutions

Only \$24 million remains available on a first-come - first-serve basis for financing private sector imports under Jordan's Commodity Import Program (CIP). Of the \$80 million set aside for Jordan's Private Sector CIP, over \$56 million in CIP letters of credit have already been issued by Jordanian banks on behalf of clients importing U.S. equipment from the U.S. At this rate of utilisation (about \$28 million U.S./year), the currently available \$24 million may be exhausted by November 1988 or sooner; therefore, businesses with U.S. import needs and their bankers may wish to plan ahead and make CIP applications early to ensure access to the last of Jordan's Private Sector CIP financing. Listed below are the basic terms which continue to be available to Jordan's Private Sector:

- Downpayment of 10% in local currency upon establishing the Letter of Credit.
- Balance to be paid from Bill of Lading date within 3 years for Raw Materials or Intermediate Goods, and up to 5 years for Capital Goods.
- The local currency amount of all payments, shall be fixed at lowest exchange rate occurring between the day the Letter of Credit is opened and the date of the B/L.
- Interest rates range from 6.25% - 10.5%.

For more information and details, contact your local bank or USAID's Commodity Import Program Office, tel. 604171, ext. 421.

The grand opening on the 7th Dec. 87



Sweifiyah Commercial area 6th circle. Tel: 821168-821169

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

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The 'mullahs' of the U.S.

IT is ironic that U.S. President Ronald Reagan, of all people, should be subjected to so much criticism and accusation by his conservative constituencies on the eve of his historic meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Voices were raised by some of the die-hard, ultra-conservative senators and representatives, along with other pillars of the Republican Party, (who brought President Reagan to power in the first place). The same once-devoted supporters have now accused Mr. Reagan of selling out to the Soviets. Such cries of misguided anger and panic against so-called appeasement of Mr. Gorbachev are prompted by the imminent signing of the INF pact by the two leaders when they meet in their much-awaited summit in Washington today.

It is a sad commentary to note that even President Reagan has become defensive in drumming up support for the treaty, which will eliminate short and intermediate range nuclear missiles from Europe. To feel "alienated, abandoned and rejected," as one of the ultra-conservative Republicans put it, simply because their president has agreed, after long negotiations with the Soviets, to eliminate 3 per cent of the total number of nuclear weapons in the superpowers' arsenals, is an absurdity bordering on paranoia with regard to any form of nuclear disarmament. How would such voices sound when it is time to negotiate for the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons by 50 per cent, as anticipated? No one dares to even imagine.

It is one thing to maintain one's national defences against aggression, real or imaginary; but it is quite another to flirt with national or even international suicide out of distrust and hatred for the other side. These staunch opponents of the INF treaty are the "mullahs" of the U.S., as, in their refusal to negotiate and compromise, they pose the same threat to international peace and security as the mullahs of Iran. They share the same rigid perspective which threatens all efforts towards disarmament, stability and peace. The world will surely be a safer place to live in without the interference of this perspective in international affairs.

U.S. Senate holds key to binding INF treaty

By Ruth Sinai

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will sign a nuclear arms reduction treaty this week, but their signatures are only the first step toward making the agreement binding on the United States.

From the White House, Reagan will send the document to the U.S. Senate for ratification — the process by which at least two-thirds of the chamber must give their consent before a signed treaty becomes law.

The ratification process is as old as the 200-year constitution of the United States. Article II, section 2 of the constitution states that the president "shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the senators present concur."

Over the years, that clause has become both a tool of democratic participation in government decision-making and a barometer of the balance of power between the legislature and the executive for control of foreign policy.

Treaties, defined as international compacts, have brought the United States peace with other nations, supported American territorial expansion, established boundaries, protected U.S. trade and regulated government affairs with Indian tribes, which at one time were considered separate nations.

The nation's founding fathers excluded the House of Representatives from the treaty process, citing the fact that the Senate is smaller than the House and the term of office longer, providing more continuity.

The Senate now has 100 members while the house has 435 members.

Overall, the Senate has been accommodating toward presidential authority, approving some 1,400 treaties since 1789 and only rejecting about 20.

But the Senate has other means of thwarting treaties beside rejection. It can attach amendments that the president or the other signatories cannot accept, and it can delay debate on ratification indefinitely.

Senate conservatives, concerned over alleged past Soviet

non-compliance with arms agreements, are threatening to derail the pending intermediate nuclear forces (INF) treaty by attaching amendments unacceptable to the Soviets.

The White House, however, is mounting an all-out persuasion campaign and is confident it can overcome Senate objections when the ratification hearings begin in January. The administration has even asked Gorbachev to meet with Senate leaders during his visit to win over skeptics.

The Senate used the delaying tactic for the second strategic arms limitation treaty (SALT II), which was signed by both governments in 1979 but never ratified.

The Senate's reluctance to ratify the agreement revolves around concerns that the Soviet Union would cheat on the accord which places limits on the number of strategic weapons both sides are allowed to deploy. It provides for the Soviets to reduce their strategic nuclear delivery systems from 2,504 to 2,250. U.S. limits were to remain constant at about 1,900 systems.

The absence of ratification has allowed both sides to violate the signed treaty. After accusing the Soviets of violating the terms of the accord, the United States openly exceeded SALT II limits in November 1986 by deploying a B-52 bomber capable of carrying nuclear cruise missiles.

The Soviet Union has said it was abiding by the treaty. The most recent arms control treaty to be ratified was the 1972 SALT I and its affiliated anti-ballistic missile treaty.

Two arms treaties still awaiting ratification are the threshold test ban treaty of 1974 and peaceful nuclear explosions treaty of 1976. Both limit the size of underground nuclear explosions. But in the case of these two treaties, it is the president who is holding up ratification.

Reagan contends that the treaties, signed by previous U.S. administrations, lack sufficient provisions for verifying Soviet compliance and are therefore not ready for Senate approval.

An historic look at treaty ratifications shows the early presidents, like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, enjoyed clear command over U.S. relations with other countries.

Superpower summit and Third World hopes

By Dr. Waleed Sadi

THE WESTERN and Socialist camps would certainly take comfort in today's super summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. After all the two camps will be well represented in the persons of the leaders of the Western and Socialist worlds. The Third World, however, will not feel at ease as the leaders of the two main blocs of power in the world sit down to settle their disputes and make compromises "here and there" which could compromise as well as their vital interests. This fear and concern by the Third World is obviously vindicated as they will not have any semblance of representation at the summit of the "big and mighty" clubs of the world not even their ghost will be there. This lack of representation in any form or shape could surely make the fate and destiny of the under-developed world easy prey to the whims and dictates of the two sides of the developed world. Such considerations and anxieties would explain why the under-powered and under-developed countries cannot share totally the euphoria generated by today's Reagan-Gorbachev summit and at best their optimism would have to stay subdued, cautious and guarded.

It is still not too late to set off the alarm here and now and warn the superpower leaders that they will forever remain accountable for their actions and decisions not only to their respective constituencies but also to the peoples and governments of the rest of the world which we all share and aspire to share equitably. We in the Third World must rise up now at the outset of the summit and warn the two leaders against falling into the trap of trespassing on the rights and aspirations of the other nations which will not be represented at their summit as tyrannical and despotic rulers in the past have done only to find soon enough that they had to pay dearly for their wanton neglect of the thoughts and feelings of their constituencies. The analogy may appear farfetched and too academic and without sound historical basis, yet the precedents created in the distant past may still find expression in contemporary exercise of international power where the weak and meek nations are misrepresented or unrepresented at the centres of power. Any free "wheeling and dealing" behind the back of the Third World countries will not go by undetected or accounted for. This is the message that should be brought to the attention of Reagan and Gorbachev.

In specific terms, the Third World countries should readily serve notice on the two leaders that their agenda on nuclear and other mass destructive weapons should envisage real, factual and bonafide disarmament as the superpowers are in fact flirting and gambling with the very lives and environments of peoples and nations other than their own and who account for more than two

thirds of the total population of the world. Therefore, while all of us on this planet take some comfort in the fact that the two superpowers have reached an agreement on the elimination of shorter and medium range nuclear missiles from their respective arsenals, we must never relax our vigilance against other nuclear and mass destructive weapons until they brought down to much more manageable proportions. After all the agreement on shorter and intermediate range nuclear missiles which will be signed during this summit will touch only 3 per cent of the total nuclear weapons available to the two sides.

With regard to our regional conflicts in the Middle East, there are two fundamental situations that stand no chance of being resolved satisfactorily and durably without the direct participation and involvement of the two superpowers. The first is obviously the Arab-Israeli conflict which has eluded proper resolution all these past decades because the superpowers have yet to stop playing politics with the national interests of the peoples and states affected by it. It surely has not escaped the attention of the Arab World and the Soviet Union as well that whereas 129 countries have voted in favour of the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly last week calling for the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East, only the United States and Israel have casted their votes against that resolution. What a more propitious occasion is there other than the Reagan-Gorbachev summit to breathe new life into the elusive conference idea on which much hope has been pinned by the international community to resolve once and for all the Palestinian case as well as its ramifications which touched upon the national interests of other Arab countries in geographic proximity of Israel. Surely the Soviet Union can extricate a clear U.S. commitment in favour of the conference idea in return for another "favour," as it were, that the U.S. is seeking from the Soviet Union in another region of the world. After all that is what the whole game of international politics is all about: An exchange of "favours" on a quid pro quo basis. If the Soviet Union values Arab friendship that much, one would expect of them to exert more vigorous and active support to the conference idea. The leverage that Moscow has with Washington and Israel is such that it could bring about the miraculous conception and delivery of the conference idea to be followed by sustainable efforts to have it bring forth fruit that both Arabs and Israelis can live with on a permanent and durable basis. We in the Middle East are convinced as we have been for many years that if the two superpowers put their minds into it, the solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict would become within reach in no time. That is

why we the Arabs in the Middle East are hoping against hope that the two superpowers can find a formula where their mutual interests in the Middle East politics could coincide.

The other regional hot spot which awaits the earnest attention and care of the superpowers is, of course, the Gulf war. With the latest negotiations between the United Nations secretary general getting more and more bogged down in bottomless sands, there is but one way left to put an effective end to the Iran-Iraq war: A total blockade of Iranian ports by a joint Soviet-U.S. fleet to save Iran and the other Gulf states from further blood letting and destruction. This could come about if the strategic interests of the two superpowers could converge on the need to stop the Gulf war and apply a quarantine against the Iranian revolution to stop it from spreading southward, westward as well as northward. On July 20 of this year, the two superpowers had a meeting of the minds when they voted jointly in favour of resolution 598 at the U.N. Security Council. Much water had crossed under the bridge since the date that "glorious" unanimity was accomplished among the permanent members of the Security Council but it was not enough to dissipate all hopes that a superpower consensus can still be attainable on the Gulf situation.

Most recent remarks made by Andrei Gromyko, president of the Soviet Union, to the effect that his government is now most critical of Iranian procrastinations over the implementation of Resolution 598 and is now ready to accept the application of sanctions against Iran should it persist any longer in rejecting the resolution is an encouraging sign on which superpower consensus can be constructed.

Any joint action or actions by the superpowers needs to be carried out however in conjunction with an offer of an olive branch to Tehran in a desperate effort to lure it into accepting some reasonable, just and durable accommodations with its neighbours on all fronts.

If the leadership of the two superpowers can accomplish all of this or even some of it, they would have manifested a superb statesmanship which could snowball into more manifestations of successes and accommodations on other issues and conflicts both global and regional. Any such progress in the superpower relations can become the locomotive which could pull forward the string of other happily concluded issues and confrontations. We thus pray that President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev will not fail humanity in our region as well as other regions of the world where the flashpoints are greater than ever.

Thatcher, America's closest ally, is outspoken admirer of Gorbachev

By Maureen Johnson

The Associated Press

LONDON — Mikhail Gorbachev's break for a meeting with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher en route to Washington highlights a paradox: America's closest ally is also probably the most outspoken Western admirer of the Soviet leader.

Their scheduled meeting on Dec. 7, when Gorbachev stops off at Brize Norton royal air force base, near Oxford, is widely regarded as a tribute to a warm personal relationship and as a boost for Mrs. Thatcher's international status.

The meeting also prompted press speculation — dismissed by British and U.S. officials and most analysts — that Mrs. Thatcher's invitation for a meeting with Gorbachev before he sees President Ronald Reagan miffed the American administration.

"I think it is much more a reflection of the improvement in British-Soviet relations than any weakening of British-American relations," said Alex Pravda, Soviet affairs specialist at London's Royal Institute of International Affairs.

"In this case the personal relationship is important. They get on very, very well. ... The nuclear factor (British nuclear weapons) is also central to Soviet regard for this country."

Gorbachev, on his way to sign a treaty to eliminate intermediate and shorter-range nuclear missiles from Europe, will be the first Soviet leader to visit Britain since Nikita Khrushchev 31 years ago.

The foundation for the pre-summit meeting between the British Conservative leader and the Soviet Communist Party chief dates from 1984 when Gorbachev, then no. 2 at the Kremlin, made an official visit to London.

"I like Mr. Gorbachev. We can do business together," Mrs. Thatcher declared after their first meetings.

Since then business has included reciprocal expulsions in 1985 of more than 30 of each other's diplomats amid recriminations about espionage. But the mutual regard apparently survived and has grown, particularly since Gorbachev mapped out his policy of "glasnost," or openness.

Mrs. Thatcher, once among the West's staunchest hardliners toward the East bloc, has regularly lauded the Gorbachev programme and said he will have a tough time. "But he is a man of great courage and I believe that he will persist," she said in a glowing tribute this month during a foreign policy speech.

"Every enlargement of choice and of human liberty enhances mankind. The prize is great and the attempt historic. We support and applaud it," she said.

Personal chemistry apart, each has use to make of the other at Brize Norton.

"He'll want to get some line about the British missiles for the next round of arms control negotiations," said Fred Halliday, professor of international relations at the London School of Economics.

"He also wants to show the Americans he can talk to the West Europeans directly. ... And he'll want to use her to persuade Reagan. He knows if he tries out an idea on her, she'll probably call up Reagan."

For Mrs. Thatcher the meeting will be an opportunity to tell Gorbachev directly, before the superpowers get down to negotiating 50 per cent cuts in their long-range missiles, where Britain stands on nuclear arms.

Mrs. Thatcher is modernising the British arsenal with U.S. Trident missiles, which she refuses to put into the negotiations. France, the other West European nuclear power, takes the same position.

She opposes cutbacks in short-range nuclear weapons in Europe as long as the Soviets have superiority in conventional forces and maintain chemical weapons.

In any case, the Kremlin has helped boost the Thatcher image ahead of Gorbachev's visit.

"It will be an exchange of views. Mr. Gorbachev values Mrs. Thatcher's opinion," said the chief spokesman for the Soviet foreign ministry, Gennadi Gerasimov.

Missiles due to go, but not the protesters

By Maureen Johnson

The Associated Press

LONDON — When the last U.S. cruise missile convoy trundles through the English countryside, a group of anti-nuclear protesters will be lying in wait, maintaining an unbroken record of harassment.

Even after the superpowers sign an arms treaty, "we won't be out of a job," said Ian Lee, a veteran of nearly four years of crawling through barbed wire, evading searchlights and hiding in the woods.

The arms accord, to be signed in Washington in December, provides for the elimination of cruise and other land-based intermediate-range nuclear missiles from Europe over three years.

But 97 per cent of the world's nuclear armaments remain and with other weapons expected to be delivered in the years ahead, European anti-nuclear groups say they intend to keep up the pressure.

The European Nuclear Disarmament Campaign, an umbrella organisation to which most big anti-nuclear groups in Western Europe affiliated, has said its member groups will remain active.

In Amsterdam, Mient-Jan Faber, a leader of the Inter Church Peace Council (IKV), said that his organisation would "continue the struggle for the total, global abolition of all nuclear weapons."

He noted, however, that the INF pact was "a very good beginning... really very good news."

In West Germany, the coordinating committee of the peace movement, a national coalition of

pacifist, anti-nuclear and environmental organisations, said Friday it is preparing to launch a new offensive next year to work total nuclear disarmament.

"The superpower agreement to eliminate intermediate range nuclear missiles is only a beginning," said Gerd Greune, a spokesman for the group.

Lee, 42, a key organiser of Britain's Cruisewatch, said "we'll move on to the substitute weapons they'll try to bring in." Cruisewatch is a loosely knit group of vigilantes whose most spectacular exploits have been ambushing and forcing missile convoys to a halt, spraying paint on the giant mobile launchers and climbing into the cabs.

An offspring of Britain's campaign for nuclear disarmament, Cruisewatch plans to fight the sea- and air-launched nuclear missiles it says Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will be the first to accept from Washington. Thousands rallied to protest the deployment of the missiles in five Western European countries, starting with an air strike to Greenham Common on Nov. 14, 1983.

In contrast, the missiles' scheduled departure over three years has an air of anti-climax.

Government officials allow the anti-nuclear movement no credit for the withdrawal treaty, saying it was determination to deploy the weapons in Europe that moved Moscow to negotiate.

Lee disagrees. "We can't quantify it, a quarter or three-quarters, but we have been a part of bringing about this agreement," he said in an interview at the Campaign for Nuclear Disarma-

ment's London headquarters. "What we've done is to stop the secrecy and therefore the military logic of having these weapons," said Lee.

"We can now predict... what the American military at Greenham are going to do several days ahead."

Not once, Cruisewatch says, has a convoy managed to slip undetected from the U.S. missile base at Greenham Common, 50 miles west of London, on one of its supposedly secret exercises.

The manoeuvres, without nuclear warheads, have been held about once a month on the 90,000-acre Salisbury plain in southwestern England, site of the ancient Stonehenge monument and 40 miles from Greenham Common.

Cruisewatch emerged in collaboration with anti-nuclear activists living near Greenham Common and a women's protest camp outside the U.S. base. The women, their numbers reduced to a handful, say they too, plan to stay.

With no formal membership or hierarchy, Cruisewatch maintains a network of hundreds of supporters in the south of England.

As the quarter-mile-long convoys of four launchers, two control vehicles, up to 16 support vehicles and British police escorts roll out of Greenham, usually at night, Cruisewatch goes into action.

Alerted by telephone and two-way radios, protesters converge on the convoy in cars, blocking the road or darting between a launcher and the police escorts.

U.S. military officials refuse to comment on Cruisewatch activi-

ties. Soldiers are under orders not to touch or speak to the protesters, but just sit in their vehicles while British police haul them away.

But a Cruisewatch ambush by 100 protesters, which halted a convoy for an hour last November, prompted a warning by British armed forces Minister John Stanley that in wartime anyone obstructing missile deployments would be shot on sight.

For some hardcore activists, dogging cruise missiles has become a way of life. Lee, a former marketing manager, abandoned his career to follow the missiles after, he said, a convoy terrified his daughter as it rumbled past her bedroom. He has been arrested dozens of times for obstruction and trespass.

"It is not something you can do on a Saturday afternoon by joining a demonstration," said Blue Joyce, 24, who dropped out of Southampton University three years ago, has no regular job and is a full-time activist.

Ms. Joyce said she has been jailed eight times, serving sentences of up to 21 days.

"It is quite literally a resistance movement," she said. "It is ordinary people who have beaten them, ordinary people who will carry on."

Bruce Kent, chairman of the campaign for nuclear disarmament, called the U.S.-Soviet arms treaty "a turning point in human history."

"For the first time we have proof that nuclear disarmament is possible," he said. "But this is just the first step. There must be no stopping here, no turning back."

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Fine white clay tablets, such as this one from Guatemala, embossed with the image of Christ, are made to be eaten. In some societies, earth-eating, or geophagy, is normal human behaviour. Rooted in religious, cultural, and medicinal practices, its most common manifestation is during pregnancy.

Earth-eating is common in many parts of world

By Joy Aschenbach
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — Some people eat earth — and not just in times of famine or because they're crazy. In some societies, it's normal human behaviour.

"We think how horrible, how revolting, but there's no stigma," says geographer John M. Hunter of Michigan State University, who has studied earth-eating, known as geophagy, over the past 20 years, primarily in Africa and Central America.

What earth-eaters consume mostly are fine white clays such as kaolin — not gritty, organic dirt. The clays are often shaped like eggs, disks, or wafer-thin tablets, baked in the sun or smoked over fire, and sold in outdoor markets.

Why people eat earth is rooted in religious beliefs, cultural traditions, medicinal practices, and psychological needs.

Clay may be eaten to reduce oodworm-caused abdominal pain, ease hunger pangs, soothe earburn and nausea, control diarrhoea, or simply satisfy a craving. To discerning palates, the soil has a pleasingly sour, mousy taste.

But the most common manifestation of geophagy, Hunter says, is during pregnancy, so much so that he calls clays used in eating "pregnancy clays."

In India, for example, elaborate, baked clay figurines are even as bridal gifts, to be broken and eaten during pregnancy.

In Africa, Hunter says, if a pregnant woman is "undernourished, exhausted from many pregnancies in a few years, has no access to see or pharmacy to go to, and no money for nutritional supplements, she resorts to intuitive, pragmatic folk medicine."

Under these circumstances, he explains, "clays can definitely supply minerals to the fetus. They compare favourably with Western pharmaceutical supplements."

Hunter's judgment is based on laboratory tests at Michigan State at analysed clay samples and nulated human digestion to determine what the body receives from clay. His work is supported by the National Geographic Society.

Depending on where clays originate, they can contain minerals such as iron, calcium, magnesium, potassium, phosphorus, copper, and manganese.

Geophagy is a harmless practice unless carried to excess. Hunter says, "Heavy, habitual clay-eating can impede the body's absorption of minerals and block a colon."

But culturally rooted geophagy, he says, should not be confused with a psychiatric disorder, commonly called pica, that manifested by chronic, compulsive eating of nonfoods such as gravel, chalk, paint chips, or dirt.

Geophagy — which can be traced back to ancient Greek and Roman times, when embossed

red-clay medallions were widely used as medicine — is still practised in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Central America, and the United States.

Hunter believes that Africans probably started eating clay to satisfy hunger pangs. A person would reach out for the nearest bit of clay, breaking off a piece of the fireplace, for example. "That smoked clay would be crispy and crunchy to eat," he says.

As the practice evolved, a favourite family clay pit would be found, and then one preferred by a group of families or a village. Eventually a peasant industry emerged, with clays sold in markets, sometimes hundreds of miles away.

Clays for trade are usually washed, mixed with water, kneaded, shaped, often decorated, and dried in the sun.

African slaves brought geophagy to the southern United States. It is still practised by some blacks, mostly during pregnancy, in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and the Carolinas.

Even when some black women move to Northern cities, they are sent clays from the family clay mound, Hunter says. But others look down on the clay-eating habits of their mothers and grandmothers and consume less-nutritious laundry starch instead.

In Central America, clay-eating is associated with the worship of the Black Christ at Esquipulas in eastern Guatemala. Once a sacred Indian site known for its healing muds and hot springs, it became a Christian shrine after the Spanish Conquest. A 5-foot-high image of Christ on the cross, carved in 1595, became known as the Black Christ because its brown woods resembled the copper-coloured skin of the Indians.

More than a million people a year, most from Central America, now visit the shrine, says geographer Robert N. Thomas of Michigan State. Small, glistening white clay tablets — embossed with the image of Christ and known as "pan del Señor" (bread of the Lord) — are sold to the pilgrims. The biscuits are usually eaten during pregnancy.

These tablets, each weighing little more than an ounce, are made by local people from clay from a holy hill. "You have to dig down for it several feet, below the topsoil and subsoil, where the clay is hard, compact, and clean," Hunter says.

From Esquipulas, worship of the Black Christ has spread throughout much of Central America — and with it, clay-eating. Geographer Oscar H. Horst of Western Michigan University, who is tracing the diffusion of Black Christ shrines, has reports of at least 170 others, most in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Mexico. Clays from Esquipulas or from local clay pits are sold at a number of these shrines.

Hunter, who has sampled some clay, hasn't acquired a taste for it. "Dry in my mouth... bland," he reports. He had to wash it down with water.

Agonies and ironies of a divided Ireland

By Paul Majendie
Reuter

BALLYCONNELL, Ireland — If you sit on the sofa in Felix Murray's kitchen, the border between British-ruled Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic runs right through you.

Felix and his two brothers, juggling with their status to get good value, buy their dog licence in the south, their television licence in the north.

Some of the cottage bedrooms are south of the border, others north. Both postmen visit.

But what is the worst thing about living in two states? "They cannot stand all the media and the tourist buses who come by," said one of the Murrys' recent callers, Dublin journalist Colm Toibin, who visited while writing a book called "Walking Along the Border."

For Toibin, his three-month hike on foot along the border highlighted both the ironies and the agonies of an island divided by Britain in 1921 and darkened by the blood of sectarian and political conflict ever since.

Toibin, recalling one of the few light moments in his trek along a

disaster-stricken frontier, told Reuters that the bilateral border bungalow "struck me as delightfully funny. They have American tourists taking pictures outside, laughing with one foot in the north, one in the south."

Much of his book inevitably concentrates on the fallout from the bitter conflict that has taken 2,600 lives in 18 years as Irish nationalist guerrillas fight to oust the British from the north.

The Murray bungalow is 16 km from Enniskillen, where the Irish Republican Army (IRA) planted a bomb on November 8 which ripped through a war memorial ceremony, killing 11 people and provoking international outrage.

Police and troops on both sides of the zig-zagging border, honeycombed with up to 500 country lanes as crossing points, kept a wary eye on Toibin as he walked along the ramshackle frontier where the north's tragedy is played out every day.

In the little Northern Ireland town of Castleterg, scene of six murders and 40 bombings in the past two years, a local Protestant councillor told him: "We see no light at the end of the tunnel, we

see nothing, only darkness."

The bleak, gaunt and rain-lashed landscape was matched by the despairing mood of so many people he met on both sides.

In the village of Clontibret in the Irish Republic, one old man reflected sadly: "When love goes out of a place, there's nothing left. The young people are all brought up on bombs and guns."

Toibin came across some of the more gruesome milestones in the 18-year-old conflict, meeting the only two survivors of a 1976 sectarian massacre when 10 Protestantists were gunned down in a bus returning from work.

The survivors were a Catholic, told to run away by masked gunmen, and Protestant Alan Black who was injured but not fatally.

Now living alongside the children of his slain workmates, Black makes an annual pilgrimage to the scene of the slaying. He told Toibin with a shudder: "It's a terrible place really. Sadness doesn't even begin to describe it."

Toibin also attended service at the Darkley Pentecostal church where Irish nationalist guerrillas burst in on the congregation in 1983, mowing down three

parishioners.

The pastor, who received almost 8,000 letters of support from around the world, chose for Toibin's visit the same hymn they were singing when the gunmen burst in:

"Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power?"

"Are you washed in the blood of the lamb?"

In his cross-country pilgrimage, Toibin was also swept into a petrol bomb-throwing riot in Londonderry and had Northern Ireland border police pointing rifles as they frisked him.

But the border never ceased to have its absurdities for Toibin because "it was always zigzagging through deserted fields. There were two constants on my trip — the rain and always asking whether I was in the north or south."

Now, reflecting back on the doom-laden walk that was followed only a few months later by the carnage of Enniskillen, Toibin concluded: "That was a very sad event but will not change the way the IRA operates. It is not going to be a turning point or a milestone. That's what makes it all the sadder."

Qatar uses acupuncture to snuff out smoking

By Adel Abu Rub
Reuter

DOHA — Doctors in the small Gulf Arab state of Qatar plan to use hypnosis, group therapy and ancient Chinese acupuncture to snuff out smoking by the year 2000.

Organisers of an anti-smoking week for next month — Qatar's fifth in as many years — say it will be the most intensive ever with key government ministries joining in.

The executive director of Qatar's Red Crescent Society (QRCS) Hassan Al Suwaidi told Reuters the stop smoking message would be pushed through television, radio, newspaper, public lectures and debates.

Even mosques would play a part in the campaign named "Qatar — Free of Smoking by 2000." Islam prohibits anything harmful to health.

With a population of 372,000, Qatar imported more than 1,060 tonnes of cigarettes, cigars and other tobacco products worth \$5 million (yuan) in 1986.

Suwaidi said that after last year's anti-smoking drive the education ministry and the 600-bed Hamad Hospital, Qatar's largest, banned employees and visitors from smoking during working hours.

During the week beginning December 5 state school children will spend one day debating the hazards of the habit and compet-

ing to produce the best drawing of "the evils of smoking."

The campaign is being organised by Qatar's 2,000-strong anti-smoking society and the QRCS.

Earlier this year, a special anti-smoking unit with the slogan "addiction starts with smoking" was added to the health ministry's psychiatric clinic.

Although not the first of its kind in the Gulf, officials said it pioneered a three-pronged treatment using hypnosis, group therapy and electro-acupuncture to rid smokers of their habit.

Patients are treated in at least three one-hour sessions. If they persist in smoking, booster sessions are given.

"Acupuncture is particularly effective because it causes physiological changes in the body which makes cigarettes unbearable to the smoker," unit head Dr. Khalil Fadel said. "He will be upset by any cigarette he has."

Fadel said the ancient Chinese therapy of sticking pins into a patient's body at selective nerve junctions was first used for treating drug addicts in Hong Kong in 1971.

It is now widely used in Europe and the United States, especially for treating heroin addicts. Electro-acupuncture uses low electric currents.

Fadel, an ex-smoker, said that 163 of 352 heavy smokers treated so far had stopped and others had cut down.

Officials report AIDS is not spreading rapidly in U.S.

By Jim Fuller

WASHINGTON — U.S. health officials report that the AIDS epidemic is not spreading rapidly through the heterosexual population of the United States.

The officials made the comments at a White House briefing December 2 following release of a report outlining plans for a three-year nationwide survey to provide accurate estimates on the number of people infected with the deadly virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

The Presidential Commission on AIDS also issued a preliminary report to President Reagan outlining the commission's schedule of work from now through preparation of a final report next June. The 13-member panel has been directed to advise the president on how best to protect the public from the AIDS virus.

Dr. James Mason, director of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia, said that over 46,000 cases of AIDS have been reported in the United

States since 1981.

Mason said, however, that the exact number of people infected with the AIDS virus is still not known. Public health officials have estimated that somewhere between 1 million and 1.5 million U.S. citizens are infected with the AIDS virus. Those infected show no disease symptoms and may not come down with the disease for many years.

"With an incubation period which is at least 7.5 years... the number of reported cases does not represent the extent of infection among the population," Mason said. "We need to know what's going on under the water in terms of an iceberg of infection."

Mason said that the nationwide survey, due to be completed in 1990, is essential to target and evaluate control efforts at local and state levels, to predict future health care needs, and to understand where the AIDS epidemic is headed.

Dr. Otis Bowen, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, said that

although the limited data collected so far is not precise, "the statistics show that this is not a massive, widely spreading epidemic among heterosexuals that some people fear. And I think panic should be avoided in all incidences."

Bowen said that all scientific evidence shows that AIDS is hard to get, with the virus being transmitted mainly through shared dirty needles used by drug users and through promiscuous homosexual activities.

"We really don't have the data that will enable us to precisely measure how well we're bringing the disease under control," Mason said. "But what our data does show us, as imprecise as it is, is that the disease is not spreading wildly through the U.S. population. But it is spreading in those groups that continue to participate in behaviours that transmit the virus."

Mason said the CDC is conducting both a general nationwide survey of AIDS prevalence and separate surveys in 30 metropolitan areas that include both

high-risk and low-risk populations. He said the metropolitan data will be collected from hospitals as well as sexually transmitted disease, drug treatment, family planning, pre-natal and tuberculosis clinics.

"This will give us an understanding of patterns of infection in terms of prevalence, but also will allow us to measure the extent of new infections — whether incident rates are declining, increasing or staying the same," he said.

Mason said that all testing for AIDS virus during the surveys will be anonymous, with no identification other than age, sex and race provided by individuals being tested. He said this is the only way to protect the confidentiality of those testing positive for the AIDS virus.

The chairman of the Presidential Commission on AIDS, Admiral James Watkins, told reporters his panel would hold public hearings over the next two months on several major issues concerning the AIDS epidemic. — U.S. Information Agency.

VIN DE CHATEAU

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1. Prizes will be given away on December 15th, 1987.

2. Prizes will be given away to passengers travelling on Royal Jordanian in December.

3. Prizes will be given away to passengers travelling on Royal Jordanian in December.

4. Prizes will be given away to passengers travelling on Royal Jordanian in December.

5. Prizes will be given away to passengers travelling on Royal Jordanian in December.

6. Prizes will be given away to passengers travelling on Royal Jordanian in December.

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8. Prizes will be given away to passengers travelling on Royal Jordanian in December.

9. Prizes will be given away to passengers travelling on Royal Jordanian in December.

10. Prizes will be given away to passengers travelling on Royal Jordanian in December.

ROYAL JORDANIAN الخطوط الملكية الأردنية

Setting new standards

Asmussen wins super jockeys title

TAKARAZUKA, Japan (Agencies) — American jockey Cash Asmussen won one race and finished second, third and sixth in the others to win the overall title Sunday in the international invitational horse races at Hanshin Race Course in western Japan.

The 25-year-old Asmussen, riding Wonder Resist, won the 1,600-metre (one mile) Golden Saddle Trophy Race by a neck and finished third in the 2,000-metre (1¼-mile) Golden Whip Trophy Race Sunday, bringing his total to 165 points.

On Saturday, Asmussen, on Toa Souru, finished second in the

Golden Spur Trophy Race and sixth in the Golden Boots Trophy Race.

Asmussen, who came to Japan as a jockey representing Europe, won a prize of 3 million yen (\$22,730) plus a gold trophy.

Yukio Okabe of Japan came in second with 140 points after winning the Golden Whip Race by a

neck and finishing second in the Golden Saddle Race Sunday.

Third overall was Japan's Hiroshi Kawachi with one victory, one third-place finish and one fifth for 135 points.

Laffit Pincay Jr., a U.S. Hall of Fame Jockey, was next with one victory for 100 points.

The winner of each race received 100 points, the runner-up 40, third place 25, fourth place 15 and fifth place 10.

Each jockey also received a 1 million yen (\$7,600) allowance for each race.

Seven foreign and three Japanese jockeys competed.

Werder surges ahead to top of table after crushing Karlsruhe

BONN (R) — Werder Bremen pulled two points clear at the top of the West German First Division on Saturday after an easy 2-0 away win over newly-promoted Karlsruhe.

Bayern Munich, champions for the last three years, saw their hopes of closing the gap on Werder before a traditional 10-week midwinter break dashed after a hard-fought 2-2 draw at Hamburg.

Werder trainer Otto Rehagel was in buoyant mood after watching his team romp to victory, thanks to two goals from seasoned striker Frank Neubarth.

"We're in a great situation. My young team is enthusiastic. But we've still got almost the whole

round of return matches," Rehagel said.

Bayern Munich started confidently enough with a goal in the 23rd minute from captain Klaus Augenthaler. But after halftime a different Hamburg returned to the field.

Eight minutes into the second half midfielder Thomas von Heesen equalised, and just seven minutes later a perfectly-judged 25-metre shot from Thomas Korth put the northern club ahead.

Bayern midfielder Lothar Matthaus rescued Bayern minutes from the final whistle with a lucky shot. They now lie third, three points behind Werder who have a game in hand.

Cologne, who only weeks ago were the only unbeaten side in the league, seemed to have lost their way after a 3-0 away thrashing from lowly Kaiserslautern.

Kaiserslautern put up their best performance of the season, with goals from ex-Cologne player Frank Hartmann and strikers Harald Kohr and Sergio Alievi.

Elsewhere, the recent sacking of trainer Horst Kappel seemed not to have the desired effect for Bayer Uerdingen, who sank further towards the bottom of the table after a 4-2 mauling at the hands of Borussia Moenchengladbach — their third home defeat this season.

Italy downs Portugal for berth in European Soccer Championship

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Italy successfully completed a qualifying round for the 1988 European Soccer Championship by downing Portugal 3-0 at Milan's Meazza Stadium Saturday.

The Italian team, which had clinched a berth for the final round of the European competition defeating Sweden 2-1 in Naples last month, ended the five-team group-two round with an unbeatable lead of 13 points out of 8 matches, three points ahead of the Swedish runner-up.

Portugal was left with six points in 7 matches and one game still to be played against last-placed Malta on Dec. 20.

Italian wonder-forward Gianluca Vialli gave the home team a 1-0 half-time lead with a powerful shot from about 25 metres in the 8th minute.

Midfielder Giuseppe Giannini scored Italy's second goal in the 88th minute. Seconds before the final whistle, in the 90th, newcomer Roberto Agostini made it three.

Italy, fielding its best eleven, and Portugal, missing several key players and its star-forward Paulo Futre, mostly confronted at midfield and produced a few opportunities close to the net.

The Italians, who considered the match a sort of training, did

not press too hard following the early goal by Vialli also because the rain-drenched field made the players' balance difficult and tactics dangerous.

Only 20,000 fans watched the match in the 80,000-seat Milanese stadium and occasionally whistled at what appeared to be an insufficient engagement by the Italian team.

The two late goals produced ovations, however.

Vialli, the young striker of Sampdoria of Genoa who had tallied both qualifying goals against Sweden, opened the score with a cannon-ball which passed through a crowded penalty-area and ended into the Portuguese net, near the post right to goalie Jesus.

Vialli also made the beautiful pass, past the Portuguese defence, which led to De Agostini's goal.

Evander crushes Qawi, retains dual titles

ATLANTIC CITY (R) — Evander Holyfield successfully defended his two 87-kg titles with a fourth-round knockout of fellow-American Dwight Mohammad Qawi on Saturday.

Holyfield, the successful defender of both the World Boxing Association (WBA) cruiserweight and International Boxing Federation (IBF) junior heavyweight crowns, sent Qawi to the canvas twice in the fourth round, finishing him off with a powerful combination that left him sprawled on the ring, partially under the ropes.

"I caught him right on the button," Holyfield said.

Qawi was counted out by referee Randy Neumann two minutes 30 seconds into the fourth round. The 34-year-old's manager announced afterwards that the former World Boxing Council (WBC) light heavyweight and WBA junior heavyweight champion was retiring, ending with a career record of 28-5-1.

On an earlier card, American Mark Breland scored a unanimous 10-round victory over Javier Suazo of Mexico. It was Breland's first fight since losing the WBA welterweight title three months ago.

Holyfield's impressive performance set the stage for him to move from the 87-kg division to the heavyweight class and a shot at champion Mike Tyson.

Lou Duva, Holyfield's trainer said: "Give me six months and then let's make a date to meet Tyson."

Holyfield, who raised his record to 17-0 with 13 knockouts, had edged Qawi by a split decision margin in their first 15-round punch-filled bout in July 1986 to win the WBA junior heavyweight title.

On the early card, Breland dominated the fight throughout, punching away almost unopposed with left jabs, but he was unable to unload a really damaging blow against Suazo, whose record dropped to 17-4-1 with eight knockouts.

The convention centre crowd grew restless at times through the fight, and Breland was booed throughout the fight.

"I paid no attention to them. I won, that's what counts," said Breland, who improved his record to 19-1 with 12 knockouts.

Himalayan runners finish world's highest marathon

LONDON (R) — Athletes from five countries have run the world's highest marathon in the Himalayan mountains of Nepal in aid of charity, the organisers said on Saturday.

Forty-five runners from Britain, France, The Netherlands, the United States and Nepal took part in the Nov. 27 race, which began on the glaciers near Everest base camp at an altitude of 17,000 feet (5,180 metres).

Spokesman Robert Howard told Reuters the runners raised £50,000 (\$89,000) for four charities which build schools and hospitals in Nepal.

"To reach the start they had to trek through the foothills of the Himalayas for 16 days and camp

out in freezing temperatures," he said.

He said the athletes, who included four women, had run at an altitude where there was only half the normal amount of oxygen, crossed hair-raising suspension bridges and endured temperatures ranging from minus 15 degrees centigrade to over 20 degrees centigrade in one day.

The winner was 32-year-old Scotsman Stewart Duffield, who completed the course in four hours, 53 minutes and 10 seconds. He was followed 34 seconds later by Gurkha Soldier Phabendra Magar, 26.

Howard said the next Everest marathon was being planned for 1989.

Cavaliers outpace Lakers

RICHFIELD, Ohio (AP) — Tyrone Corbin tipped in a missed shot at the final buzzer, giving the Cleveland Cavaliers a 97-95 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

It was the first time in nearly two years that Los Angeles had lost three consecutive regular-season games.

Phil Hubbard led the Cavaliers, who have now won three straight, with 19 points, and Corbin scored 16.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar led the Lakers with 21 points.

Mavericks 109, Nuggets 96

Mark Aguirre scored 17 of his 35 points during a 20-0 second-quarter outburst and the Dallas Mavericks went on to a 109-96 victory over the Denver Nuggets.

The game marked the first time in 44 all-time meetings that Dallas had held Denver under 100 points.

Supersonics 115, Bullets 99

Xavier McDaniel scored 26 points and the Seattle Supersonics broke open a tie game in the fourth quarter to defeat the Washington Bullets 115-99.

Moses Malone had 21 points for the Bullets.

Rockets 121, Warriors 96

Purvis Short hit 13 of 15 shots and scored 27 points, pacing the Houston Rockets to a 121-96 victory over the Golden State Warriors.

Graham back on his feet again

DONCASTER, England (R) — Britain's Herot Graham bounced back on Saturday night from the first defeat of his career to stop American Ricky Stackhouse and revive his world middleweight title hopes. Graham showed little sign of rustiness after taking six months off following the loss of his European crown. Sharp from the opening bell, he put Stackhouse down at the end of the fifth and was well in front on points when referee Ron Hackett halted the contest after 31 seconds of the eighth round.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Louis' son accused of 'kidnapping hoax'

CINCINNATI (AP) — The son of former heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis, who has been accused of staging a false kidnapping, has been ordered held without bond by U.S. Magistrate J. Vincent Aug. The FBI said Joe Louis Barrow II, 20, called to say that his stepbrother was kidnapped Sunday, but an all-night investigation by seven agents revealed that the kidnapping was a hoax. Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert A. Behlen Jr. said Barrow had no job or family locally. Behlen expressed doubts about the man's claimed access to a \$30-million trust fund and the ownership of his \$78,000 white Porsche sports car. "It's still a pretty fuzzy picture," Aug said.

2 soccer officials die in plane crash

TURIN, Italy (AP) — A small private plane crashed near this Piedmont capital Saturday, killing both people aboard, one of whom was the president of the First Division soccer club Fiorentina, authorities said. After an eight-hour search, rescue teams found the wreckage of the Cessna 172 and the bodies of Piercesare Baretti and Oreste Puglisi. The plane was piloted by Baretti, 48, who had been president of the Florence soccer team since 1986. Previously, he served as a league official and editor of the Turin sports daily Tuttosport. Puglisi, 71, was a retired flight instructor. The plane disappeared from radar screens at around noon, shortly after taking off from Turin on a training flight. Airport authorities said the pilot reported to the control tower that visibility was poor and he was turning back. There was no further contact. About 300 people searched a mountain range about 30 kilometres southwest of Turin, but were hampered by rain, snow and fog. They reached the wreckage Saturday night on a mountainside at an altitude of 700 metres.

Nakayama wins Olympic qualifying race

FUKUOKA, Japan (R) — Favourite Takeyuki Nakayama of Japan easily won the Fukuoka International Marathon, a Japanese Olympic qualifying race, here on Sunday. Nakayama, 27, winner at the Asian Games in Seoul last year, fought cold, wet conditions to finish the grueling race in two hours eight minutes 18 seconds. The 152-strong field included 17 competitors from nine foreign nations. Nakayama set his best time of 2:08:15 in 1985. Compatriot Masanari Shintaku was second with 2:10:34, followed by Joerg Peter of East Germany with 2:11:22. Japan's Toshihiko Seko, winner of this year's Boston Marathon, did not take part. He is expected to compete in February's Tokyo Marathon, another Olympic qualifying race.

Colandro wins Air New Zealand Open

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — Mike Colandro claimed his biggest paycheck ever by winning the \$200,000 Air New Zealand Shell Open Golf tournament at Titirangi on Sunday. Colandro, of the United States, shot a 67 to finish 10 under par, one stroke ahead of Australian Roger Davis, last year's winner. It was the 34-year-old Colandro's first win in a four-round tournament. "God has helped me through some real tough situations," said Colandro, who has won about \$100,000 this year. Sunday's \$36,000 check, however, was by far his biggest. He played steadily in the last round, coming from two strokes behind Saturday's leader and tournament favourite Sandy Lyle of Scotland. Lyle had a poor day putting. He shot a 73 to finish seven under par for the tournament.

Chinese runner sets record in Macao

MACAO (AP) — Favourite Zhang Guowei of China easily won the 7th annual Macao Marathon on Sunday, beating 584 other runners in a meet record time of 2 hours, 16 minutes, 21 seconds. Wu Jichang of China was second in 2:19:48 and Australia's Brian Morgan third in 2:24:18. Both Chinese runners broke the old record of 2:20:18 set two years ago by Antonio Erotavo of Italy, who has won the Macao Marathon five times but did not compete this year. Tang Hangwei of China won the woman's crown in 2:58:24. Most of the runners in the 42.195-kilometre race were from Hong Kong and Macao. The race was run through this Portuguese enclave's narrow streets in crisp weather, with temperatures hovering around 9 degrees Celsius (48 degrees Fahrenheit). Zhang received a prize of \$5,000, Wu \$3,000 and Morgan \$1,500. Miss Tang received \$1,000.

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Tender documents may also be inspected only at the JEPCO offices in Amman, Jabal Amman, near First Circle. Tenders are to be submitted in English and must be completed in duplicate using the documents provided. The 'Master' and 'Copy' tenders are to be returned to JEPCO in Amman.

All tenders are to be submitted by 12:00 noon local time on Wednesday, March 2, 1988. The 'Master' tender will be opened thereafter in the offices of JEPCO on the closing date set for the receipt of tenders.

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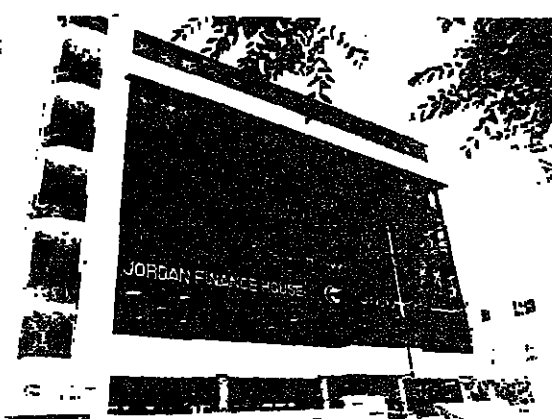
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Britons blame U.S. more than Soviets for nuclear arms race

Poll: Soviets, Americans harbour positive feelings

LONDON (Agencies) — Britons blame the United States more than the Soviet Union for the nuclear arms race, according to a new survey of British attitudes toward nuclear weapons.

The study by Reading University and the Polling Organisation Taylor Nelson Monitor found that 49 per cent of Britons think the United States is responsible for continuing the arms race, while 45 per cent blame the Soviet Union.

In publishing selected findings from the study Sunday, Reading's Department of Politics said 50 per cent of Britons believe the arms race will continue despite U.S.-Soviet initiatives to reduce their arsenals.

Thirty per cent of the 2,347 people 16 and over who were questioned said they did not think the arms race would continue at the current rate, and 20 per cent said they did not know.

No margin of error was listed. The survey was conducted be-

fore the superpowers reached agreement to eliminate medium- and shorter-range nuclear weapons, the subject of this week's summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Authors of the study said it was the most comprehensive ever undertaken in Britain to determine attitudes toward nuclear weapons.

It indicated that 44 per cent of the British people believe a nuclear conflict is inevitable. In a similar U.S. study conducted before the 1984 election, 68 per cent said they thought nuclear war would occur if the superpowers continued to build their nuclear arsenals.

On the question of nuclear

survival, 82 per cent of Britons said they did not think they could survive a nuclear conflict, 8 per cent thought they could and 10 per cent said they did not know. The U.S. study said 77 per cent of Americans believed they would have a poor chance of survival if there was a nuclear war.

Meanwhile a new poll, the first to be taken simultaneously in the U.S. and the Soviet Union, showed Soviet and American citizens harbour positive feelings towards one another but are wary of the opposing governments.

The poll was carried out on behalf of Newsweek by the Gallup Organisation and in the Soviet Union by the Institute for Sociological Research for the Academy of Sciences on behalf of the Soviet Press Agency Novosti.

It was taken for release ahead of the Dec. 7-10 superpower summit in Washington.

In the poll 63 per cent of Americans said they felt friendly

toward the Soviet people but 75 per cent had a negative attitude toward the Kremlin.

In the Soviet Union, 81 per cent said they had mostly positive feelings about Americans, but 58 per cent said they felt negatively toward the U.S. government.

In other findings, 43 per cent of U.S. citizens felt their country should be militarily superior to the Soviet Union compared to 50 per cent who believed it should be about equal. Soviets, by 71 per cent to 15, felt parity was best.

Americans were about evenly split in their impression of U.S.-Soviet relations — 43 per cent said they were satisfied and 44 per cent said they were not. Only four per cent were very satisfied.

But 70 per cent of Soviets said they were not satisfied, and 84 per cent said they were very interested in news stories about superpower relations. Only 36 per cent of Americans answered this question in the strongest positive terms.

Ortega rejects direct talks with contras

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — President Daniel Ortega has ruled out direct talks with the Nicaraguan government and U.S.-backed rebels aimed at speeding up efforts to end the nearly 6-year-old insurgency.

"That meeting," he told reporters, "would not make any sense."

At such talks, he said, "there would be a U.S. delegation (the rebels) which could not make decisions with a Nicaraguan government delegation which could decide."

"The logical thing is that if a meeting of that nature is desired, the United States sits down with Nicaragua to discuss the issues," he told reporters, after meeting with a U.S. congressional delega-

tion. Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo, the mediator in peace talks between the rebels and the Sandinista government, had said he would insist on direct negotiations to help bring about a ceasefire.

The contra rebels announced Saturday in San Jose, Costa Rica, that they would impose a 36-hour truce, starting at noon on Dec. 7, to help create conditions for a permanent ceasefire.

The Nicaraguan Resistance, the contra's umbrella organisation, said that if the Sandinista government accepted the truce, the rebels would agree to a Christmas ceasefire, on Dec. 22-Jan. 6.

Mr. Ortega, in response to the contra proposal, said: "If a ceasefire is desired, the United States must cease the fire because they are the ones who are making war on Nicaragua."

"Our position," he said, "is that we cannot give a truce to the contras, to those mercenaries, those terrorists who are killing our people."

"We are going to continue fighting them tooth and nail every day of December and while they are trying to attack and are attacking the Nicaraguan people," he added.

Mr. Ortega called the indirect talks "a positive element." He added, "We cannot expect that all the problems will be resolved in one meeting."

Yeltsin critic sacked in Moscow party shake-up

MOSCOW (R) — A Moscow official who described working with the city's dismissed Communist Party chief Boris Yeltsin as "torture" has now also been ousted, the newspaper Vechernyaya Moskva reported on Saturday.

The report said new Moscow party chief Lev Zaikov had presided over a reshuffle of the top ranks of the city party organisation at a plenum held on Friday. It said Vladimir Skitev had been removed as head of the

Moscow Organisational Party Work Department, a coordinating body. He was transferred to a job on the Moscow City Council in a move which represents a demotion.

At the Nov. 11 session which ousted Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Skitev made one of the sharpest denunciations of the outgoing Moscow chief, who was sacked for criticising top party organs and contending Kremlin reforms had not changed people's lives.

Mystery surrounds ship fire that caused 23 to drown off Spain

LA CORUNNA, Spain (R) — A freighter from which 23 Chinese and Hong Kong crew members plunged to their deaths in icy waters off north western Spain was still on fire on Sunday, maritime officials said.

The crew members, including a woman, died fleeing the blaze which began on Saturday morning after a mystery blast on board the vessel 15 miles out to sea.

Eight survivors were plucked from the Atlantic by ships and helicopters operating in what one rescuer said were appalling conditions.

A maritime official told Reuters flames prevented investigators from boarding the vessel to look for the cause of the explosion.

The abandoned freighter, the Panama-registered Cason, was swept to shore by strong winds and ran aground near the port of Vigo. Witnesses on land said they could still hear small explosions on board.

Early on Sunday morning it was still unclear what the ship was carrying. But a survivor, engineer Chiu Sing-Man, said the cargo was in containers carrying a skull-and-crossbones danger warning.

Rescue workers said they had ordered the survivors' clothing to be analysed for clues.

Chiu said the ship was tossed about in a heavy storm before dawn on Saturday when there was an explosion.

The fire spread so quickly nobody had time to think, he said. The captain gave the order to abandon ship and the crew flung themselves into the rough seas, some in lifeboats but others with just lifejackets on.

"We all hurried straight into the lifeboats and threw ourselves into the water," an unidentified survivor told Spanish radio.

Hospital sources said none of the dead crew members — 22 Chinese and one from Hong Kong — appeared to have suffered burns, although some may have died in carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carlucci orders \$33b cut in Pentagon budget

WASHINGTON (R) — In a move almost sure to result in a smaller U.S. military force, Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci has ordered a \$33-billion cut in the 1989 Pentagon budget, a senior defence official has said.

Pentagon Comptroller Robert Helm told Reuters that Mr. Carlucci ordered the 10 per cent cut under an agreement last month by White House and congressional negotiators to trim the 1989 defence budget from \$323 billion to \$290 billion.

"Assuming that agreement is fully implemented, we are going to have to find \$33 billion in cuts," Mr. Helm said in an interview.

Mr. Carlucci told reporters at a NATO defence ministers meeting in Brussels last week he would do everything he could to keep all of the more than 320,000 American troops stationed in Europe, but he could not guarantee that if the overall U.S. troops strength was trimmed.

PEKING (AP) — China's Foreign Ministry Sunday voiced support for Kampuchean Resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk following his talks with Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Vietnam-backed Phnom Penh government on ending the Kampuchean conflict.

"China always respects and supports Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's efforts to seek a fair and reasonable political settlement of the Kampuchean question," the ministry said.

RELATIVES OF KAL victims to fly to Bangkok

SEOUL (R) — Relatives of passengers on a South Korean airliner which disappeared with 115 people aboard will fly to Bangkok this week, officials of Korean Air Lines (KAL) said on Sunday.

No trace of the KAL Boeing 707 has been found despite intensive searches along the Thai-Burmese border where the plane was heading when it disappeared a week ago on a flight from Bag-

dad to Seoul. A KAL spokesman said more than 200 relatives of South Korean victims would fly to Bangkok on a special plane around Dec. 9.

"They may hold a joint memorial service at the crash site if the wreckage is found," the spokesman said.

Most of the 95 passengers on the missing plane were South Korean contract workers returning home from the Middle East. There were two foreigners aboard, an Indian and a citizen of the United Arab Emirates.

South Korean officials suspect that an Asian couple who took poison capsules after disembarking from the plane at Abu Dhabi are North Korean agents who planted a bomb aboard.

Victims of safari plane crash buried in Rwanda

KIGALI (R) — The bodies of 11 American safari tourists killed when their light plane crashed in north western Rwanda have been buried at a service conducted by a Catholic priest and a Baptist minister and attended by U.S. embassy officials.

Also buried at Gisenyi were the two other occupants of the plane, the Kenyan pilot and another Filipino-born passenger.

The plane, a Cessna 404 chartered in Kenya, crashed in a forest near Gisenyi while on a flight from Zaire.

The families recognised this, she said. The bodies were buried on Saturday at a service conducted by a Catholic priest and a Baptist minister and attended by U.S. embassy officials.

Also buried at Gisenyi were the two other occupants of the plane, the Kenyan pilot and another Filipino-born passenger. The plane, a Cessna 404 chartered in Kenya, crashed in a forest near Gisenyi while on a flight from Zaire.

Atlanta or moved later. The machetes were fashioned on prison grinding wheels, Kennedy said.

"They were making them from the very beginning, almost every day," he said. "There are literally thousands of every description."

The 360 FBI agents, wearing flak jackets and carrying M-16 rifles, began their sweep Saturday morning in the prison's tunnel system. No bodies were found, Kennedy said.

Some inmates had claimed that men died in fires set after the prison revolt began on Nov. 23 following a U.S.-Cuban agreement that prisoners feared would lead to their return to Cuba. At least three buildings were gutted by fire and one inmate was killed during the rebellion.

Aquino calls for clean elections after 9 deaths

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino appealed on Sunday for peace in next month's Philippines local elections after nine people were killed in poll-related violence barely one week after campaigning began.

"We should strive to attain a clean and peaceful election," Mrs. Aquino said in her weekly radio broadcast.

Four candidates in the Jan. 18 election and five of their aides have died in separate incidents throughout the country. Authorities believe the violence will escalate in the coming weeks.

Local elections in the Philippines have a history of violence. Filipinos describe them as affairs traditionally run by "guns, goons and gold," during which personal and political rivalries often turn into provincial battles for power.

Officials have recommended postponing the election in "hot spot" areas in one northern province and at least six provinces in southern Mindanao Island.

Mindanao military commander

Brigadier-General Jesus Hermosa said some candidates in the region were backed by notorious armed groups that have allegedly spread violence in previous elections.

At least 50 people were killed in last May's congressional election which local and military officials described as relatively peaceful.

During the broadcast, Mrs. Aquino also asked listeners to report cheating in the polls, where more than 150,000 candidates are vying for 75 provincial governorships and 1,500 city and town mayoralties.

"Please let me know so that we can do something about it," said Mrs. Aquino in reference to possible fraudulent voting.

It will be the first local election under her 21-month-old administration.

The military has suggested that voting should be held a month later in certain areas to give soldiers time to secure volatile provinces.

U.S. probes Marcos real estate link with Khashoggi

WASHINGTON (R) — Former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his wife, Imelda, have been informed that they are the targets of an investigation by a federal grand jury in New York, the Washington Post said on Sunday.

The newspaper said the couple's attorney, Richard Hibel, confirmed that the ousted Philippine leader was a target of the investigation, but declined to say whether his wife was.

Other grand jury investigations involve Marcos and the Philippines, but the New York probe is the only one in which the couple has been told by letter that they are targets, it added.

Such letters usually precede indictments, but no decision has been made on whether to press charges and any such action would have to be approved by the

White House, the paper said. The Post said the New York grand jury was investigating whether the Marcoses illegally acquired hundreds of millions of dollars of property and fraudulently tried to transfer it to Saudi businessman Adnan Khashoggi.

Investigators were focusing on four Manhattan office buildings, the newspaper said.

The Philippine government says in a civil suit that the properties were bought with misappropriated government funds.

Citing unidentified sources close to the probe, the Post said federal prosecutors in New York were also investigating whether the couple bought millions of dollars worth of jewellery with funds illegally diverted from the Philippine government.

China supports efforts to end Kampuchean conflict

PEKING (AP) — China's Foreign Ministry Sunday voiced support for Kampuchean Resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk following his talks with Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Vietnam-backed Phnom Penh government on ending the Kampuchean conflict.

"China always respects and supports Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's efforts to seek a fair and reasonable political settlement of the Kampuchean question," the ministry said.

Prince Sihanouk and Mr. Hun Sen, following two days of meetings near Paris, on Thursday signed a joint communique affirming their common goal of ending the 9-year-old Kampuchean conflict and calling for a political solution through negotiations involving all factions.

China insists that the Kampuchean issue can be settled only if Vietnam pulls all its troops out of the country and the self-determination of the Kampuchean people is guaranteed.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Egyptian artifact withdrawn from auction

LONDON (AP) — A small decorated sheet of gold depicting the coronation of Tutankhamen, the boy ruler of ancient Egypt, has been withdrawn from auction in London after an Egyptian protest, British press reports said Sunday. Christie's made no immediate public statement. A security guard there on Saturday night said there might be a comment on Monday. The weekly Observer reported Youssef Sharara, Egypt's ambassador in London, stopped the sale by saying the sheet may have been smuggled out of Egypt after being taken from Tutankhamen's tomb when it was discovered in 1922 in the Valley of the Kings at Luxor. The tomb, cut into desert rock, had painted and engraved walls and contained artifacts of gold, wood and semi-precious stones. The weekly said Christie's had returned the relic to the sellers, who are unidentified descendants of Wilhelm Horn, a Berlin collector born in 1870. It said Horn knew all the leading archaeologists in the first decades of this century. The auction catalogue said Horn bought the relic in Berlin in 1934. The Sunday Times quoted Professor John Harris, head of Egyptology at Britain's Durham University, as saying: "It is a blatant forgery." The Sunday Times said Harris's view was backed by Joachim Karnig, deputy head of the Egyptian Museum in Berlin, who said: "I only needed to glance at the Christie's catalogue to see that the piece was not genuine." The report did not give the reasons for their doubts.

'Rambo' comes to Thailand

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — American actor Sylvester Stallone has shifted from Israel to Thailand to film a sequel to his "Rambo" series and traded his mercenary fatigues for a quiet life in a Buddhist monastery in an opening scene of the film. The 41-year-old actor arrived in Bangkok last Monday from Israel, where he spent three months working on the third of the Rambo films, in which he plays a Vietnam war veteran taking on assorted dangerous missions. He is currently in the northern Thai province of Lamphun, where sequences about Rambo's monastic stint are being filmed at Prabudonabath Tak Pha Monastery. The star and his production crew will spend about three weeks and between \$2 million and \$4 million filming in Thailand, said unit publicist Tom Gray. They are to return to Bangkok to film a warehouse fight scene with bamboo sticks. Gray said in a telephone interview. The \$31-million film deals with a "very current political situation involving the Afghans and other obvious groups," Gray said, declining to give further details of the movie's plot. "Mr. Stallone is happy to be here, very fond of the country and grateful to the monks who have allowed the filming," the spokesman said. On Saturday, the temple's abbot asked Stallone to affix a gold leaf decoration on a temple built in honour of a deceased senior monk whose remains are to be cremated in January. Gray said.

Shepherd lives with flock for 15 years

CAGLIARI, Sardinia (AP) — A 62-year-old Sardinian shepherd slept in a bed for the first time in 15 years after police arrested his employer, who had forced him to live with a flock of sheep in the pastures of this Italian island. Police on Friday arrested 57-year-old shepherd farmer Antonio Angius, who had forced Pasquale Mereu to sleep and eat with the flock of sheep he tended in the southern Sardinian countryside, the ANSA news agency reported. Angius, whose property is in the town of Villasalto near the city of Cagliari, was accused on unlawful restraint and personal violence. Since he left the home where he had lived with four brothers and a sister some 15 years ago, the shepherd stayed with 50 of Angius' flock of 400 sheep, dressed in dirty and ragged canvas clothing and shoes with holes, ANSA reported. Angius did not allow Mereu, who speaks only the Sardinian dialect, to leave his flock and fed him only pieces of cheese, according to ANSA. The shepherd ate his first hot meal in years — meat and pasta — at police barracks Friday and spent his first night in a comfortable bed at his brother's house.

Pioneer transplant surgeon honoured

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Several hundred people honoured Dr. Christian Barnard on the 20th anniversary of the pioneer surgeon's first human heart transplant. The event marked Dr. Barnard's feat on Dec. 3, 1967, at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa. Earlier, Barnard was host of a symposium on heart transplant surgery at Baptist Medical Centre in Oklahoma City. "I am extremely pleased to see that heart transplantation has become such a widely accepted procedure," Dr. Barnard said. Among those who honoured Dr. Barnard was Dr. C. Walton Lillehei, former professor of surgery at the University of Minnesota Medical School who taught Dr. Barnard and others who pioneered heart transplantation. Prof. Lillehei, called the "father of open heart surgery," talked of the 1950s when Minnesota surgeons tried lowering the body temperature enough to work inside the human heart. Dr. Barnard was one of Prof. Lillehei's students, and the aging professor was not about to let his 65-year-old pupil forget it. "Chris generously admits that I taught him everything he knows about cardiac surgery," Prof. Lillehei told the black-tie dinner. "I have to remind him periodically that I haven't taught him everything I know."

\$1,000 bequeathed to each police officer

HOBART, Indiana (AP) — A widow who had little contact with the city's 30 police officers left them \$1,000 each because she thought they did a good job, says the lawyer who drew up the bequest. Florence A. Wiesjahn, who died on Dec. 13, 1986, lived alone after her husband's death in 1975 and was confident police were protecting her. Attorney James Bozok said. Bozok said Mrs. Wiesjahn, who had no children, wanted to leave something to this Chicago suburb of 23,000 people. She specified the police officers because she feared officials would use money to "put up a plaque." The police learned of the gift only Wednesday when all the paperwork was completed and city clerk-treasurer Margaret Kuchta, who also is mayor-elect, called them into a briefing. "We thought she was going to tell us how she was going to handle the police department in office as mayor," said Sgt. John Clemmons. "She's not one to make jokes about things, but until we got the checks, we didn't believe it."

Detectives sniff out scent thefts

GRASSE, France (R) — Three chemists in this capital of the world's perfume industry have been charged with industrial espionage after detective tracked their scent thefts through a computer trail, police sources said on Friday. The sources said the theft was discovered at the Mero factory, a subsidiary of leading European perfume group Sanofi, after Mero executives found that newly created rival company, Aromatech, was marketing scents identical to theirs. Suspicions were further raised when a Mero "nose," as the perfume chemists are known, submitted his resignation. He was met by detectives on leaving the factory, and several chemical formulas were found inside his briefcase. Investigators then searched the Aromatech computers and found exact copies of the Mero scents. Aromatech was founded by two former Mero employees, Alain Dutto and Noel Girosetti, who were charged along with their accomplice, Didier Pinault, the sources said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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RUBBER BRIDGE OR DUPLICATE?

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 4 3
♥ K 6 5
♦ A Q J 6 2
♣ Q 4

WEST
♠ J 10 9 2
♥ J 9 4 2
♦ 8 7
♣ J 7 3

EAST
♠ A K 6 5
♥ 8
♦ 8 5 3
♣ K 10 9 6 2

SOUTH
♠ Q 8
♥ A Q 10 7 3
♦ K 10 4
♣ A 8 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Rubber bridge and duplicate sometimes seem as if they are two different games. Consider this hand and decide how you would play at duplicate and whether you would follow the same line playing for money.

At duplicate, your first consideration is what the contract is likely to be at the other tables. With a combined count of 27 high-card points and an eight-card major-suit fit, you can safely assume that

four hearts will be the popular contract. Thus you cannot afford to take any anti-percentage plays since, if the odds hold true, you would simply be assuring yourself of a poor score.

Therefore, what do you do after the defenders start with three rounds of spades? You ruff and cash the ace-king of trumps. If both defenders follow, or if the jack drops singleton, or if East turns up with four trumps to the jack, you can make the rest of the tricks. Unfortunately, it is West who has four trumps headed by the knave so, like everyone else, you are doomed to defeat for an average score.

At rubber bridge, you should not jeopardize your contract for an overtrick. You can make your contract even if you lose a trump trick, so the correct line after ruffing the spade is to cash the ace-queen of trumps, leaving the king in dummy as an entry. When the suit breaks 4-1, you start on diamonds. Somewhere along the line the defender with the long trumps will ruff, but that will be the third and last trick for his side. You win any return, draw the last trump by entering dummy with the king and cash whatever diamonds still remain. In all you make five trump tricks, four diamonds and the ace of clubs.